

THE MENACE OF RAGGING
IN
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
AND
MEASURES TO CURB IT

**Report of the Committee constituted by the Hon'ble
Supreme Court of India In SLP No. 24295 of 2006.**

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Foreword

If education, and particularly Higher Education, is to serve as the lever to the great surge forward of the Indian nation, the scourge of ragging which corrodes the vitals of our campuses needs to be curbed. Appreciating this, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India was pleased to direct us to give suggestions on the means of prevention of ragging in educational institutions. We feel privileged to submit our report on the menace of ragging and measures to curb it.

When we embarked on this task, we did not anticipate the overwhelming response and the enormous interest that would be generated by this topic. Interviews and interactions with academics, students (including victims of ragging), parents, teachers, administrators, employees of universities and colleges, civil society activists, psychologists, sociologists, legal experts, media persons, political representatives, office bearers of student organizations and statutory authorities, representatives of State Governments and local authorities – the list is long – helped us in understanding the enormity of the challenge.

Although we were granted a time-frame of four months to submit our report, and indeed it was possible to do so with the secondary evidence available to us, we express our gratitude to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for granting us the liberty of an additional four weeks so that we could incorporate an interesting analysis of the survey of responses from over ten thousand students. Even at the time of giving finishing touches to this report, many more responses continue to pour in.

We are not the first Committee to go in to the question of ragging. The issue has been studied in the past. Institutions of higher education are also bound by the directions/ guidelines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the “Vishwa Jagriti Missions” matter. However, the problem has not abated, which is why we had to look into the reasons for the problem of ragging continuing to persist in our campuses. We

cannot claim that we have fully understood all aspects of the constraints that need to overcome; yet the following emerge from our exercise, which may have a reasonable potential to change the situation:

- Primary responsibility for curbing ragging rests with academic institutions themselves
- Ragging adversely impacts the standards of higher education
- Incentives should be available to institutions for curbing the menace, there should also be disincentives for failure to do so
- Enrolment in academic pursuits or a campus life should not immunize any adult citizen from penal provisions of the laws of the land
- Ragging needs to be perceived as our failure to inculcate human values from the schooling stage
- Behavioral patterns among students, particularly potential 'raggers', need to be identified
- Measures against ragging must deter its recurrence
- Concerted action is required at the level of the school, higher educational institution, district administration, university, State and Central Governments to make any curb effective
- Media and the civil society should be involved at all stages

The report contains several specific recommendations based on our observations and analysis; many of which we hope would be useful for implementations and direction by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. A report of this scope would not have been possible without the support of a large number of willing and committed persons and helpful institutions. It is not possible to name all of them here. However, we would be failing if we did not acknowledge the valuable time spared by all those who attended the interaction sessions with


the Committee across eleven cities. We would also thank Prof. Aruna Broota, Dr. Tanvir Aejaz and Dr. Rajesh Jha, all of the University of Delhi, Dr. Anupama Bhatnagar of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the coalition to uproot Ragging from Education (CURE), the society for people's Action Change and Enforcement (SPACE), the Educational Consultants India (Ltd.) and the Indian Institute of Technology , Kanpur for all their help.

Submitted, this 7th day of May, 2007


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1. Background

- 1.01 In Special Leave Petition No. 24295 of 2006, University of Kerala vs Council of Principals of Colleges [with SLP (C) No. 24296-24299 of 2004, W.P. (Crl) No. 173/2006 and SLP (C) No. 14356/2005], the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India was pleased to direct that a Committee headed by Shri R.K.Raghavan, former Director, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) be notified to give suggestions on means of prevention of ragging in educational institutions. A copy of the notification No. F.9-98/2006.U-5 dated the 5th December, 2006 is at **Annexure I**. In accordance with the orders of the Apex Court, the Committee nominated by it further nominate two other members – one each from the southern and western regions. The full composition of the Committee, after the said nominations is at **Annexure II**.
- 1.02 The terms of reference (TOR) of the Committee were to study the various aspects of ragging; to suggest means and methods of prevention of ragging; to suggest possible action that can be taken against persons indulging in ragging; and, to suggest possible action that can be taken against college/university authorities in the event of ragging.
- 1.03 In its Interim Order of the 27th November, 2006, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India expressed its dismay that notwithstanding the concern shown by it in Vishwa Jagriti Mission through President Vs. Central Government through Cabinet Secretary and Ors. (AIR 2001 SC 2793), “practically very little has been done to prevent the menace of ragging in educational institutions”. The Apex Court expected the present Committee to make the recommendations “as to how the provisions already enacted in several States and Statutes to be framed to prevent the menace, can effectively eliminate the menace.”
- 1.04 The Committee was required to submit its Report within four months i.e. by the 5th April, 2007. However, it had to request the Hon'ble Court through the Ld. Additional Solicitor General of India, Shri Gopal

Subramaniam, to extend the date of submission by another four weeks – the additional time was needed by the Committee to collate and analyse several thousand responses it had received from students and institutions all over the country.

2. The Methodology

- 2.01 The Committee decided to base its report both from primary as well as secondary sources of information. The obvious stake-holders identified by the Committee were : NGOs working in the field of the anti-ragging movements, student victims of ragging and their parents, students accused of ragging and their parents, other parents, teachers and hostel wardens, Heads of institutions, authorities of universities, students - “freshers” as well as senior students, representatives of the student bodies, representatives of state and central government, press and media representatives, and other members of the general public.
- 2.02 It was decided to consult with all cross-sections of stake-holders through interaction at different state capitals broadly representative of the regional variations across the country. Accordingly, the Committee visited Guwahati, Kolkata, Bhopal, Mumbai, Jaipur, Kochi, Chennai, Patna, Lucknow, Hyderabad and Bangaluru. The Committee also met for consultations on two occasions in Delhi with NGOs and experts. **Annexure III** gives minutes of the interactions at the places visited by the Committee. Indeed, the Committee benefited from these interactions – in particular, in understanding the reasons for the inability to root out the menace of ragging and associated corrupt practices from our higher education system.
- 2.03 A questionnaire was designed in consultation with experts – the Committee places on record its appreciation of the valuable inputs received from Prof. Aruna Broota, a leading clinical psychologist and Professor at the University of Delhi in designing the questionnaire. The questionnaire was sent to all Universities recognized under the UGC Act with the request to forward it to all affiliated or constituent Colleges under them. There was an overwhelming response to the questionnaire (numbering over 12500 in all), paucity of time has not permitted us to analyze all of them and as many as 10470 responses could be analyzed.

Results of our analysis is given as **Annexure IV**. The Constraints of time has not allowed us a more elaborate survey on all possible dimensions for a better understanding of issues involved, for example, whether the type of institution, the nature of programmes of study, the geographical location, the socio-economic background of students, the gender etc. would make any difference to the outcomes. The Questionnaire was deliberately kept simple and, as professionally advised, we had requested institutions and respondents to maintain anonymity. The questionnaire comprised of two categories of questions – four of them were qualitative in nature and the remaining seven were of an objective variety. The Qualitative questions sought information on the significance attached by the respondents to their first few days in the college as well as in the hostels, and their expectations from their new institution as well as from their seniors. Questions seeking objective responses dealt with the manner of making new friends, initiative in making friendship with strangers, reaction to being bullied, propensity to seek attention, willingness to handle abused relationship, and the desirability of laying down guidelines for defining manner of interaction between seniors and 'freshers'.

2.04 A web page was specially created by the National Informatics Centre at the website of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (<http://education.nic.in/feedback/guestbook.asp>) for interaction with all cross-sections of the public. Similarly, all sections of the public were invited to respond with their views in regard to “ragging” in the light of the terms of reference of the Committee through Press Note hosted also at the web site (<http://education.nic.in/pressnote.pdf>). As many as eleven ‘Press Notes’ were released in leading news papers one each preceding the visit undertaken by the Committee for its sittings.

2.05 The Committee also benefited from presentations by Non Government Organizations – though there are very few of them dedicated to any serious campaign against ragging. CURE (Coalition to Uproot Ragging from Education), a non government initiative on the part of a few

- dedicated young persons who, as students, had personally suffered on account of ragging started as a web based discussion group in July, 2001. CURE, through its web site www.noragging.com and Blog www.noragging.blogspot.com actively canvassed feed back and related assistance. It also made available to the Committee the findings of the “CURE Comprehensive Research Report”.
- 2.06 CURE, in its report, delineates the problematic of ragging and tries to find out possible solutions. The report has dealt with definitions and conceptualization of the problem. It defines ragging by identifying the menace with three kinds of abuse: verbal, physical and sexual. The problem is analyzed from various dimensions such as psychological, group dynamics, sociological, stereotypes and so on.
- 2.07 The report also deals with the current extent of ragging, focusing mainly on the methodology, the extent, the outcomes and the place of ragging. Through a random sample survey taking 64 ragging cases reported since 2005, and classifying these cases into five categories viz – physical, physical and sexual, sexual, verbal and ‘not known’, the report debunks the popular myth that sexual and physical ragging is no more prevalent after the Supreme Court judgment of 2001. It also questions the oversimplified argument that ragging is an ice-breaker for the ‘fresher’ and claims that ragging is not a harmless fun, but cuts deep into the mental health of the ragged. It breaks several stereotypes prevalent in the society about the ragging. The CURE report tries to underline the fact that the stakeholders such as seniors, “freshers”, college/university authorities, law enforcing agencies, media and other social organisations, civil society groups must be collectively involved in eradicating this malaise.
- 2.08 In its approach to solutions, the CURE report has identified the core issues to be denial of ragging, lack of clear guidelines, complete helplessness of “freshers”, casteist and regional colouring of incidents, among others . It recommends establishment of central department and guidelines to colleges, sensitizing through education particularly sex and legal education

and solving the problem of denial, and support to victims and anti-ragging organizations.

- 2.09 Society for People's Action, Change and Enforcement (SPACE) is also a Non Government Organization engaged in advocacy and research campaign to curb ragging since May, 2004 through both field based interaction with institutions & victim students as well as over the internet (www.stopragging.org and <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stopragging>). The Committee benefited from the presentation made by the SPACE, which debates the issue of the definition of 'ragging' and focuses on the nature and the implications of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's definition of ragging in the Vishwa Jagriti Mission matter [W.P. (civil) No. 656 of 1998]. Incorporating various aspects in the parameters of ragging the SPACE report recommends a uniform law against ragging to be enacted by the Parliament; to establish one or more full time anti-ragging cells at the central level; anti-ragging cells to start 'Helplines'; and to arrange for the counselling of the victims. SPACE advocates that a monitoring mechanism should be put in place to enforce compliance with the Supreme Court guidelines and the relevant applicable laws. It also recommends that each educational institution should present to the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, an annual report about the compliance with the status of ragging in their institutions including the number and nature of ragging related complaints. This Committee acknowledges the assistance provided by the two Non Government Organizations, CURE and SPACE at various stages of its work assigned by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- 2.10 On behalf of the Committee, a Group of six volunteer consultants with exposure to issues of campus based ragging, whose names and recommendations are given at **Annexure V**, were also engaged to go through the mass of feed-back received in response to the Press Notes issued on the web site of the Ministry of HRD on behalf of the Committee, and to come up with recommendations of value for the consideration of the Committee. Based on the feed back received from various stakeholders, the Group concluded that ragging obtaining in educational

institutions is neither a means of familiarization nor an introduction with “freshers”, but a form of psychopathic behaviour and a reflection of deviant personalities, which reproduces the entrenched power configurations prevalent in the civil society. The Group also observed that the majority of abusive ragging is focused on the genital area and takes on sexual forms, leading it to comment that ragging is also a manifestation of widespread sexual repression in our society. Urgent steps need to be taken to address the above areas. Boarding schools and especially senior students need to be brought into the ambit of any move which wishes to check/prevent/ban ragging, as various kinds of bullying and sexually abusive behaviour, for instance, sodomy, originates at an early age.

- 2.11 The Committee also consulted with the Secretary of the University Grants Commission, Member-Secretary of the All India Council of Technical Education and the Secretary of the Medical Council of India. A brief account of the submissions made by these statutory regulatory bodies has been included in this Report at the appropriate place.
- 2.12 Presentations were made at New Delhi before the Committee by experts from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE – represented by its Secretary), National University of Education Planning and Administration (NUEPA - represented by its Vice Chancellor), Navodaya Vidyalaya Sangathan (NVS – represented by its Director), Vidyasagar Institute of Mental Health And Neuro Sciences (VIMHANS – represented by Dr. Vinod Nagpal), Indian Law Institute (ILI – represented by Prof. Kamala Shankaran), Political Scientist Dr. Tanvir Aejaz, Clinical Psychologist Prof. Aruna Broota.
- 2.13 Presentations were also made at different places visited by the Committee by representatives of all leading student organizations. The interaction of the Committee with all stake holders at the places visited by the Committee as mentioned earlier is given in **Annexure III** and a glimpse of the interest shown by stake holders is evident from a sample of media reports which is at **Annexure VI**. Equipped with analysis and inputs,

which became available through the process and methodology of wide-ranging consultations and feed back, the Committee proceeded to review the Status of anti-ragging measures obtaining at present.

3. Status of anti-ragging measures

- 3.01** The Committee has carefully considered the Report of the Committee appointed by the University Grants Commission in 1999 for framing guidelines with regard to combating the menace of ragging in Universities/Educational Institutions (herein after termed the 1999 Report). It is useful to recapitulate the 1999 Report to understand the reasons for the continuing menace of ragging.
- 3.02** In response to a Public Interest Legislation, filed by the Vishwa Jagriti Mission for curbing the practice of ragging, the UGC constituted a four member committee chaired by Prof K P S Unny of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The 1999 Report defined ragging along with its 'positive' and negative impacts. While enumerating some of the 'positive' impacts of the concept of ragging, the 1999 Report observed that its negative manifestations had become more prevalent. The report also talks of various forms of ragging, reasons for ragging and its increasing incidences, locations vulnerable from the point of view of ragging, and problems encountered during anti-ragging measures.
- 3.03** The 1999 Report recommended a PPP (Prohibition – Prevention – Punishment) approach. It suggested certain guidelines for prevention, law for prohibition and strict enforcement for punishing the offender(s). In regard to Prohibition, it recommended enactment of Central and the state laws, making ragging a cognizable offence and identifying the perverse forms of ragging under such law(s). It also suggested several "punishments" commensurate with the severity of the offence. It also suggested that the Films' Censor Board and other agencies should discourage eulogizing of ragging in films and the media. The 1999 Report also suggested promulgation of Ordinances by academic institutions as an interim arrangement till anti-ragging statutes and laws could be made.
- 3.04** The 1999 Report also proposed guidelines for the prevention of ragging. It recommended that an anti-ragging movement should start from the date

of publication of advertisements for admissions; advertisements should also carry the message in respect of ban on ragging, and the consequences of violation; the subsequent stages of admission process should according to the 1999 Report reinforce the message against ragging through the prospectus, application forms and admission forms. It also recommended that an undertaking for not indulging in ragging be made mandatory for admission to student hostels. It suggested that institutions should take measures to reduce the dependence of “freshers” on the senior students. It recommended information booklets to be made available to the “freshers” providing vital information, contact addresses, telephone numbers, as also information to “freshers” about their rights as a bona fide student of the institution. The 1999 Report also recommended that “freshers” should be encouraged to report incidents of ragging.

3.05 The 1999 Report also recommended various actions that ought to be taken at the commencement of each academic session, like an address by the Head of the institution (University, College, etc) to wardens, student activists, parents/guardians, police and faculty, and constituting anti-ragging Vigilance Committees comprising some senior faculty members, students and wardens. It recommended that Vigilance Committees should enquire into reported incidents of ragging and a disciplinary committee should prescribe appropriate punishment, based on which the Head of the institution should act immediately and promptly. *Suo motu* action by Heads of institutions was also suggested in the 1999 Report along with enhancement of the power of institutional authorities, who could in some cases be vested with magisterial powers. It also suggested collective punishment if a perpetrator and/or an abettor could not be identified, with even onlookers or victims to be penalized for not reporting incidents of ragging. It was recommended that the institution should not wait for the action by the police or Courts for undertaking its own punitive measures. The 1999 Report recommended that the defaulting institution should be penalized in the form of reduction in grants-in-aid or even disaffiliation. It emphasized the need for dissemination of information related to the dehumanizing impact of ragging and punishments for offences of ragging,

through posters as well the media, which should be requested to give adequate publicity to adverse impact of ragging especially in the months of July and August every year.

3.06 The 1999 Report had suggested different grades of punishments (a total of eleven were suggested), ranging from suspension of offenders from the institution to a fine of Rs 25,000 and, even rigorous imprisonment up to 3 years depending on the degree of severity of the offence. It was also suggested that except the punishment of rigorous imprisonment which Courts alone could award, all other punishments should be awarded by the institutional authorities themselves. It also recommended some positive steps and incentives to create an anti-ragging environment; for instance, a committee may be set up to actively monitor, promote and regulate healthy interaction between “freshers” and senior students; similarly, the party to welcome the “freshers” should be organized early at the commencement of the academic session; increased student-faculty interaction was also suggested. The 1999 Report also recommended incentives for the students, wardens and other functionaries; for example for the students, some marks or grade can be awarded for their anti-ragging activism, similarly, ‘Good Conduct’ and ‘Not Found Indulging In Any Form Of ragging’ should be some of the elements of sessional evaluation. It was suggested that for wardens, perks like in-campus accommodation, free telephone, some honorarium and favourable performance appraisal for promotion may enhance their commitment to curb the menace of ragging.

3.07 It may be concluded that the 1999 Report has to an extent diagnosed several causes leading to persistence of ragging incidents in campuses. The suggestions and recommendations were also equally exhaustive. Then, why is it that the problem persists, was the query this Committee raised at the various interactive forums and in the consultative process adopted by us. This leads us to look into the status of implementation of the recommendations of the 1999 Report which derived its strength from the endorsement of guidelines by the Apex Court in the Jagriti matter. In

order to understand the implementation of Supreme Court's guidelines and the UGC's mandate in respect of the 1999 Report by Universities and higher educational institutions, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) was approached. The Ministry provided material in respect of a reply in Parliament by the Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development to a Question on the subject of ragging [Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 98 of the 5th March, 2007]

3.08 According to information furnished by the MHRD, the University Grants Commission had circulated the 1999 Report to all universities on the 13th January, 2000 for necessary action. Similarly, the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in W.P.(Civil) No. 656 of 1998 [Vishwa Jagriti Mission] on curbing the menace of ragging in educational institutions have also been circulated by the University Grants Commission to all the States/Union Territory Governments and institutions for strict compliance. These directions of the Apex Court have also been brought to the notice of all State/UT Governments and Universities and other institutions coming under its purview by the Central Government (MHRD). The All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), it has been reported, has put up a circular on its web site that "ragging in educational institutions in any form is banned under law; all the AICTE approved institutions must ensure that ragging does not take place at their campuses in any form; should such a case be reported or brought to the notice of the AICTE, then the Council shall take necessary action including withdrawal of approval."

3.09 It has also been informed by the MHRD that no centralized data is being maintained at present on incidents of ragging. In respect of measures taken to curb the menace of ragging, it has been mentioned that a strict vigil is being maintained by the universities and institutions. The Ordinances of Central Universities also provide for action to be taken in the event of ragging taking place in the universities. The Central Government in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (vide F.No. 9-5/2006 – U.II. dated the 11th August, 2006) asked the UGC to issue

appropriate directions to all universities and institutions and also to consider framing appropriate Regulation in order to prevent the incidence of ragging. Such Regulation would obviously be binding only on the Institutions receiving grants-in-aid from the Commission. The UGC was also advised to consider creating a Cell in the UGC to collect, disseminate information and to monitor incidents of ragging. Taking serious note of incidents of ragging which were continuing to come to its notice notwithstanding specific directions of the Apex Court that it was the primary responsibility of institutions to curb ragging, the Central Government drew attention of the Education Secretaries of all States and Union Territories to the guidelines and directions of the Apex Court (vide communication F.No. 10-2/99- Desk (U.I.) of the 31st August, 2004). Similar communication had earlier been sent to all Institutions Deemed to be Universities and to all the technical educational institutions such as the IITs, IIMs etc. coming under the purview of the Central Government (vide communication No. F. No. 2-9/2003 – T.S.I dated the 3rd August, 2004 and vide No. F. 21-10/2004 – U.5 dated the 25th August, 2004). The Central Government called for stern action against those indulging in ragging and exemplary punishment is meted out so that incidents are not repeated. States and educational institutions were called upon to implement the guidelines. State Governments were also requested to call for ‘action taken’ reports from institutions. The Committee notes reluctantly that during its visit to the different States and regions, it did not come across any serious effort to implement the guidelines of the Supreme Court in the manner in which the Apex Court had intended so.

- 3.10** On the 25th March, 2007 the Committee interacted with Dr. T.R. Kem, Secretary, UGC. He was asked about the arrangements or system, if any, to monitor incidents of ragging in universities and institutions coming under the Commission’s purview in terms of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956. The Committee was informed that while the UGC has not created any dedicated Cell to deal exclusively with the problem of ragging in universities and institutions under its purview, the issue was looked after in the Planning and Coordination Bureau within the UGC. A proposal

with regard to a separate Regulation for prevention of ragging being prepared for the approval of the Commission in one of its forthcoming meetings (Dr. Kem mentioned that the next meeting of the Commission was due in April, 2007 and a suitable proposal would be put up before it). The Commission has not yet prescribed any reporting format and therefore no statistics are being maintained at present. The guidelines of the UGC forming part of the report based on the Supreme Court directions have been circulated to all universities in the year 2000; the subsequent communication from the government and the orders of the Supreme Court are on the website of the Commission. So far there has not been any case of stoppage of grants by the UGC in respect of any university or institution for failure to prevent ragging incidents. The Commission has also not directed any university to disaffiliate any institution on the grounds of not preventing ragging or for not taking action in the event of ragging. At the request of the Chairman of the Committee, the UGC has submitted a status note (**Annexure VII**) on the implementation of the directions of the Supreme Court in the Vishwa Jagriti Mission matter (2001) in pursuing its own guidelines that were endorsed by the Apex Court. It more or less confirms the above mentioned submission by the Secretary.

- 3.11** The Committee also interacted with Dr. Narayana Rao, Member- Secretary of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) on the 25th March, 2007. He confirmed the Circular put up by the Council at its web site warning the institutions approved by it of the need to prevent ragging. According to Dr. Rao, the said Circular has not been issued to each institution but the Council has circulated its directions that all institutions should visit the Council's website at least once a week. He also submitted that the Council would repeat the Circular. He stated that there were no instances of ragging that have been reported to the Council by institutions. On a specific query regarding the mechanism to monitor incidents of ragging in privately run hostels where students of institutions resided, it was confirmed by Prof. Rao that there were no regulations pertaining to the registration of private hostels. [The Committee is however aware that under the AICTE guidelines at least 25% of male students and at least 50%

of female students must be provided with hostel accommodation by the management.] The AICTE was also asked to submit status report regarding the implementation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions in regard to curbing and preventing ragging.

3.12 The Committee also heard Lt. Col. A.R.N. Setalvad, Secretary of the Medical Council of India on the 25th March, 2007, who informed the Committee that complaints about ragging did not reach the MCI as such complaints may be reported to the university or the police authorities or the institutional authorities. He felt that the question whether MCI considered that ragging could affect the standards of medical education could be responded to only by the Executive Committee of the Council. Lt. Col. Setalvad confirmed that no instructions or guidelines had been issued by the MCI specifically in regard to the menace of ragging. The MCI has been requested to furnish a status note in regard to the issue of ragging as well as on some ancillary suggestions that had come up during the course of the Committee's interactions with a large cross-section of students and faculty and other authorities in medical colleges, namely, whether the MCI had any powers to prescribe a date of commencement of classes for the second year students through its Regulations? Whether MCI regulations mention anything about curbing ragging? Whether it was possible to give "freshers" in 1st MBBS a breather for one or two weeks to settle down before the 2nd MBBS students arrived on the campus or in hostels? Lt. Col. Setalvad also submitted that the MCI had to work within the framework of the Indian Medical Council Act, and could only recommend withdrawal of recognition of medical colleges to the Central Government. He informed that the MCI had recommended the withdrawal of recognition in as many as 8 cases but since the Government also had to give notices for showing cause and other procedural formalities, none of the cases had been finalized yet. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman asked Lt. Col. Setalvad whether the MCI believed that it had a role in combating ragging in medical colleges in the country. If so, what measures had been taken by the Council thus far and what measures did they propose to take in the future; and, if the Council felt that it had no

responsibility what were the reasons? Secretary, MCI promised to send the requisite information which was required to be formulated by the Executive Committee and the Adhoc Committee of the Council appointed by the Supreme Court. The MCI have since reported [vide MCI-34(1)/2007-Med./2899 dated the 3rd May, 2007] that the Council at its meeting on the 28th April, 2007 has resolved as follows:

“The members of the Adhoc Committee appointed by the Hon’ble Supreme Court and of the Executive Committee of the Council considered the letter dated 3rd April, 2007 received from the Director, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of HRD, New Delhi and decided to constitute a Sub-Committee comprising of Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra, Chairman, Post Graduate Committee, MCI and Vice Chancellor, Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences (Deemed University), Nagpur; Dr. Indrajit Ray, Principal, Medical College, Kolkata and Dr. B.P. Dubey, Professor and Head, Department of Forensic Medicine, Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal and directed the office of the Secretary to convene a meeting of the Sub-Committee at the earliest so as to place the report of the Sub-Committee before the Executive Committee at its next meeting.”

3.13 The Committee also studied the existing statutory provisions in respect of ragging in the different States of the country. While executive orders of State Governments or Ordinances of universities exist in different States, some States have enacted specific anti-ragging laws. The Committee compared the existing legislations in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal. The Committee was also informed that “The Assam Prohibition of Ragging Bill, 1998” passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 5th December, 1998 to replace the Ordinance of 1998 on the subject, has not yet been notified.

3.14 The Committee compared the existing State legislations in respect of anti-ragging measures on the following parameters : 1) Purpose of legislation 2) Ragging as defined in the law 3) The Scheme of prevention 4) Institutional Mechanism 5) Appellate Forum 6) Nature of Offence 7) Penalties prescribed 8) Whether Compoundable 9) Whether Rules are notified. A comparative statement is at **Annexure VIII**.

3.15 In terms of the purpose of the various State laws, we find that other than the Chhattisgarh Act, no other State legislation is intended to prevent ragging – the others only seek to prohibit. Although broadly prohibition and prevention may appear to be broadly intended to achieve the same purpose, it is important to understand the subtle difference for our objectives, between prevention and prohibition. Prevention implies anticipating the problem of ragging, forestalling the occurrence of it, taking precautionary measures to make it difficult if not impossible for ragging to take place. Thus a law against ragging which is preventive in approach would necessarily create conditions that anticipate, forestall and make it difficult for ragging to take place – all of which help in the law becoming a facilitator in enforcing the prohibition of the menace of ragging. While prevention must lead to prohibition, the reverse need not be true. On the other hand, prohibition is intended to authoritatively forbid or restrain the act of ragging with the intention of stopping the menace. The subtle difference lies in the fact that while prohibition of ragging is a top-down approach where the law can be cryptic, any law on prevention must be more participative with a bottom-up approach laying down the detailed mechanism of preventive measures and instrumentalities. A law which is prohibitive emphasizes on the consequences of violating the prohibition and therefore builds on the procedures and instrumentalities of punishment; a law which is preventive in comparison would provide for the procedures and instrumentalities of strengthening prevention of the offence. For our broad purposes of weeding out the menace of ragging, any law must contain elements of both prevention and prohibition.

3.16 The Committee notes with concern that firstly there are very few States that have enacted laws in respect of ragging. Even these few existing State laws are woefully lacking in provisions intended to prevent ragging. The general scheme of the existing State laws casts a duty on the Head of Institution to prohibit ragging. The Head is not to be a mute spectator and has to conduct an enquiry on receipt of any complaint received and takes action thereon. Whoever commits, participates in, abets or propagates

ragging shall be fined and or if convicted, punished with the prescribed period of imprisonment, and is also liable for suspension if prima facie the charge is found to be true. None of the State laws provide for any scheme of prevention of ragging. Yes, the Committee has been told at almost all places visited by it that detailed instructions have been issued by the authorities and that ordinances of Universities provide for certain mechanisms for prevention of ragging. However, in the absence of any statutory provision in this regard it is easy to imagine that there is hardly any compulsion on authorities or institutions to take preventive measures. Yes, again, Supreme Court guidelines are stated to be followed by States and institutions; however, no State law has been modified or amended to bring them in line with the guidelines and directions of the Apex Court. Even the law of Chhattisgarh does not really address the concern of prevention. Indeed, it is too cryptic to attempt that aspect. This perhaps confirms the reason as to why there have been nearly 200 reported incidents of ragging since the time the Apex Court took up the matter and there has been no abatement of the menace despite the introduction of State laws. A list of incidents of ragging reported in the print media since the year 1998 is at **Annexure IX**. The Committee thanks CURE for making available this compilation. An analysis of this compilation for state-wise reports of incidents is at **Annexure IXA**.

- 3.17** In order to be effective, statutory provisions have to be followed up with appropriate delegated legislations or Rules, which empower the instrumentalities of the State or institutional authorities to enforce the laws. The Committee is did not come across notification of Rules or Regulations in many of the State Acts. While some States dealt with the problem of ragging in their State Education Acts (e.g. Karnataka Education Act, 1995 wherein section 2(29) defined ragging) dedicated State laws in respect of ragging have been enacted between 1997 (Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh) and 2001 (Chhattigarh). The Apex Court verdict in ‘Vishwa Jagriti Mission’ was delivered in the year 2001, wherein certain “illustrative” guidelines had been set out for the various stakeholders.

3.18 The Apex Court laid down in the 'Vishwa Jagriti Mission' matter certain guidelines for initiating an anti-ragging movement, for disseminating information to students regarding ragging, taking an undertaking from parents of students against the latter indulging in ragging, possible system of interaction with 'freshers', formation of proctorial committee in each institution to keep vigil in all vulnerable locations, and to promptly deal with incidents of ragging. The guidelines also included fixing of liability on the management, the principal/Head of the Institution and others responsible for maintaining discipline such as the hostel wardens/superintendents. The substance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's guidelines could be summarized as below :

- The guidelines issued by the Court being only illustrative, institutions and authorities could take further necessary steps to curb ragging.
- Local laws, if any, should be implemented and information about such laws should be disseminated.
- Cognizable offences of ragging should be reported to the police.
- Police entry into campuses should be only at the instance of the head of the institution.
- Police should, while dealing with students, not treat them as criminals, and should only resort to correctional action.
- The UGC was asked to bring the guidelines to the notice of all educational institutions – both the UGC and the Central Government were asked to give wide publicity to the guidelines.

3.19 Ironically, the Committee notes that the reported incidents of ragging have, far from abating, actually increased in the years since 2001. The different State laws define ragging more or less in the same tone. As a matter of fact, the definition of ragging is common to the Acts of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and West Bengal. They do take care of the psychological aspect of the trauma, yet do not comprehensively cover – save for the definition in the Chhattisgarh Act, perhaps being a later piece of legislation – the broader implication of ragging, which the Apex Court

itself set out in the 'Vishwa Jagriti Mission' matter as :

“Any disorderly conduct whether by words spoken or written or by an act which has the effect of teasing, treating or handling with rudeness any other student, indulging in rowdy or undisciplined activities which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in a fresher or a junior student or asking the students to do any act or perform something which such student will not in the ordinary course and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame or embarrassment so as to adversely affect the physique or psyche of a fresher or a junior student.”

3.20 We shall discuss, elsewhere, the possible need for an even more comprehensive definition of ragging; for the present however, what is significant is that the definition of ragging in different State laws has not undergone any revision since the matter was decided and certain directions were given by the Apex Court in 2001.

3.21 As mentioned earlier, the Committee analyzed 198 incidents of ragging between the years 1998 and 2007 (till date), from the compilation forwarded by CURE (**Annexure IXA**). The purpose was to see whether enactment of State laws since 1997 had been effective in curbing the menace and incidence of ragging. Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh were among the first States to enact a dedicated legislation way back in 1997 to prohibit ragging. Surprisingly Andhra Pradesh happens to have the largest number of reported incidents of ragging (23) during the period under review. One reason for the higher reported incidents of ragging may be the greater awareness brought about by a law and the consequent exposure to even isolated instances being highlighted by the media or reported by the victims or others. Another reason perhaps could be the expansion in professional education where such incidents are known to be high. It is equally interesting to note that while the State of Uttar Pradesh does not have a State law against ragging, it has reported almost as many incidents of ragging (22) as Andhra Pradesh during the same period. West Bengal is yet another State with a State law (enacted in 2000) against ragging, yet the third highest incidents of ragging (16) are reported from that State.

Maharashtra enacted a State law in the year 1999 and Kerala did so in 1998; both States recorded 14 incidents each – the fourth highest among all States! The reported incidents of ragging have shown a sharp increase in 2001 when as many as 31 incidents were reported as against a maximum of 9 in the earlier years of the review period. There is no discernible trend, although a peak seems to have been reached in the year 2005, when as many as 42 incidents were reported by the media.

3.22 How deplorable the consequences of ragging have become in recent years can be gauged from news incidents of ragging reported by the media (collated by CURE) – just to cite news items highlighted by the media in 2006 alone (of course it is possible that several other incidents not coming to the attention of the media have not been reported or again that the reports appearing in the vernacular sections of the press have not been reflected here).

3.23 *Engineering student S.P.Manoj is reported to have hanged himself in Hyderabad, according to his parents, after ragging; Bijoy Maharathi, a pharmacy student of Bhubaneswar died of torture while undergoing ragging; a student of the Orissa University of Agriculture Technology was pushed down from the terrace by seniors resulting in spinal injuries and broken legs; Vipin Lal of Kozhikode, a student of Teachers' Training Institute was severely manhandled and forced to consume alcohol; in Bhagalpur, an altercation over ragging is reported to have led to bomb-blasts; a college student in Indore jumped in front of a running train after he was caught and detained for ragging other students; Rohit Vijay Rane of Mumbai suffered severe swelling of chest and skull injuries after being hit by belts; Mukesh of Andhra Pradesh was sexually assaulted during ragging and his mother could not bear the ignominy leading to her suicide; a first year medical student of Pune had to be hospitalized in the Intensive Care Unit after being ragged severely by seniors; in Hyderabad, three students were*

paraded naked and to add to the humiliation, the entire episode was recorded through cell-phone camera; A Naga medical student was found hanging in his hostel room at his institute in Imphal after he had been ragged; Swapnil Sharma of NIT, Durgapur was traumatized after being forced to kneel down for two hours; ragging at Patna Science College had to be controlled by security guards of the Proctor by opening fire; two senior students of the Institute of Hotel Management at Hyderabad were reportedly killed in retaliation by a junior who had been subjected to ragging humiliation; stripping and branding of junior students has been reported from Gujarat Vidyapeeth, ironically, an institution founded on Mahatma Gandhi's call; girl students of Viswa Bharati at Santiniketan allegedly forced a junior to undergo group sex. The menace of ragging, it may be seen from the above account permeates our campuses of every kind and not just the medical or professional colleges (even though incidence is more prevalent in such institutions) as is made out to be. It is also not confined to tertiary education alone – what is shocking is that ragging incidents have been reported of late in schools as well : during 2006 alone, three such incidents at the school level have been reported. In Dehradun's Shigally Hill International Academy, a class VI student has alleged sexual harassment by seniors; a class VIII student of Vadodara's Bhavan VM Public School, reportedly complained of ragging and left the institution; reports of ragging cruelty has been reported by one Deepak Sharma, who claims to have suffered during his days at Delhi Public School, RK Puram. The humiliation felt by victims of ragging leading to suicides is a painful reality – three such cases were reported in 2005, two were reported in 2004, three cases were reported in 2003, one in 2002, one in 2001, one in 2000 and one in 1998. Some of the elite institutions were not far behind in despicable and inhuman acts of ragging, if parents and students preferring to remain anonymous are to

be believed. The Committee was informed that in July-August, 2003, in IIT, Delhi over a hundred 'freshers' were stripped naked and paraded through the corridors of its 'Kumaon' Hostel.

- 3.24** From the foregoing, it may be safely concluded that the situation in regard to ragging in educational institutions has only worsened both in terms of the incidence of the menace as well as in terms of the intensity or degree of brutality associated with it. And, it is not supported by evidence that the menace is confined to engineering or medical colleges alone. Inputs during the interactions of the Committee indicate that, notwithstanding the counsel of the Hon'ble Apex Court, serious acts of a criminal nature continue to be perpetrated on victims of ragging by the oppressor seniors.
- 3.25** Is it the case that the guidelines of the Supreme Court were ineffective to deal with the situation? If so, what could be the reasons? Is it that some of them are impractical? Or, is it merely the case that the guidelines have not been adequately publicized? Is it that the institutions have not taken the problem to be serious enough? Is it that the problem being seasonal at the time of admissions petering out later in the academic session, does not last in the institutional memory? Is it that the moral edge in educational administration has extinguished so much that no one has the courage to bring about order in campuses? Is it the failure to co-opt all the stakeholders? Is it the unwillingness or neglect of governments to implement the guidelines? Have any instances of non-compliance been brought to the notice of the UGC/Central/State governments? These and other related queries were addressed by the Committee in the various interaction sessions with stake-holders. This situation also calls for an examination of whether the view taken by the Apex Court that students indulging in ragging should be treated as students for correctional steps and not as criminals, needs to be looked at all over again.

4. Observations of the Committee

4.01 The Committee came across a variety of aspects of the menace of ragging which for the purpose of convenience can be grouped as under with appropriate illustrations:

- 4.01.1** ragging has several aspects with among others psychological, social, political, economic, cultural, and academic dimensions.
- 4.01.2** Any act that prevents, disrupts or disturbs the regular academic activity of a student should be considered with in the academics related aspect of ragging; similarly, exploiting the services of a junior student for completing the academic tasks assigned to an individual or a group of seniors is also an aspect of academics related ragging prevalent in many institutions, particularly in the professional institutions in medicine.
- 4.01.3** Any act of financial extortion or forceful expenditure burden put on a junior student by senior students should be considered an aspect of ragging for ragging economic dimensions.
- 4.01.4** Any act of physical abuse including all variants of it : sexual abuse, homosexual assaults, stripping, forcing obscene and lewd acts, gestures, causing bodily harm or any other danger to health or person can be put in the category of ragging with criminal dimensions.
- 4.01.5** Any act or abuse by spoken words, emails, snail-mails, public insults should be considered with in the psychological aspects of ragging. This aspect would also include deriving perverted pleasure, vicarious or sadistic thrill from actively or passively participating in the discomfiture to others; the absence of preparing 'freshers' in the run up to their admission to higher education and life in hostels also can be ascribed as a psychological aspect of ragging – coping skills in interaction with seniors or strangers can be imparted by parents as well. Any act that affects the mental health and self-confidence of students also can be described in terms of the

psychological aspect of ragging.

4.01.6 The political aspect of ragging is apparent from the fact that incidents of ragging are low in institutions which promote democratic participation of students in representation and provide an identity to students to participate in governance and decision making within the institute bodies.

4.01.7 The human rights perspective of ragging involves the injury caused to the fundamental right to human dignity through humiliation heaped on junior students by seniors; often resulting in the extreme step of suicide by the victims. In one instance we have already recounted the reported case of the mother of the victim committing suicide as she could not bear the ignominy of sexual assault on her son by his seniors.

4.02 In none of the interactions did the Committee come across any instance of the educational institutions approaching the police authorities in reporting even the extreme incidents of ragging. Usually, the complaints with the police are lodged by the parents of the victims. Most of the parents have reported that the University/college support for following up on the case with the law and order machinery has been lukewarm – indeed in some cases the institutions have actively dissuaded persistent parents. The Committee is concerned with the evasive attitude of institutions and it is therefore necessary that the institutional authorities are made accountable in a variety of ways.

4.03 The Committee views the absence of civil society initiatives on the issue of ragging as a matter of serious concern. Unless the wider society gets involved in the issue of ragging as a social menace, the problem cannot be curbed or prevented by educational institutions alone. Societal indifference is understandable in the perspective of the low access to higher education in India – with less than 9 out of every 100 of our young persons in the relevant age group (18-23 years) enrolled in higher education and only a fraction of even this low numbers in professional education or residing in campus hostels – the problem looks too remote or exclusive for the rest of the society. The Committee observed that it could come across not more than two or three NGOs engaged in creating

awareness against ragging or involved in any significant manner in the movement against ragging.

- 4.04** The expansion in capacity in educational institutions in the recent past, particularly in professional courses like engineering, has led to the mushrooming of out of campus hostel accommodation for a large number of students. These locations are often unknown to the institutional authorities or even to the local law and order authorities. The Committee was apprised of several incidents of ragging taking place in such locations. However, no one within the institution was willing to own up responsibility as these private hostels were considered outside the campus and therefore outside the scope of responsibility cast on authorities by the guidelines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. This indeed is a wrong assumption because the responsibility of the authorities is no less when 'freshers' are affected outside the campus, the mere fact that such incidents do not occur within the campus does not absolve them of the important responsibility cast on them by the Apex Court, for as long as the incident of ragging relates to the students enrolled in their institution.
- 4.05** The Committee came across instances where access to communication facilities – particularly of mobile phones – has saved junior students from imminent danger. It was observed that the possession of mobile phone was the best and immediate source for the ragged to communicate with the relevant authorities. The ban on the use of mobile phones in some institutions on the ground that they are liable to be misused is somewhat far-fetched. It may be so in the case of some devices which are fitted with photographic facility, but certainly not so as a purely communication device. The ban on mobile phones is also imposed on the grounds that they disturb classes – this can be easily overcome by banning use in classrooms, or through technological solutions, through jamming for example.
- 4.06** The Committee observed that among the instances of ragging very few could be reported even where the junior students were courageous to do so. The reason is to be found in their inability to identify senior students indulging in ragging. How effective can timely complaints by any emboldened fresher be is highlighted by the reported case of a girl student of the Medical College at Kottayam in Kerala, whose complaint against male seniors resorting to sexual assault while ragging, led to their arrests

and prosecution as well as action against the college authorities. The resultant media attention raised public interest in favour of stern action. It was also observed that outsiders (non- bonafide students, the backloggers /drag-ons and local goons) would invariably enter the premises of institutions and acquire the role of ‘raggers’. It was also pointed out to the Committee that such elements enjoy patronage of the influential elite. It was also pointed out to the Committee by institutional authorities that they are at times prevented from taking strong action against the culprits by outside elements of the society enjoying political support.

- 4.07** The Committee was told by all the stake holders that there is pressing need to provide assistance and to make available guidance to fresher students by professional counsellors at the time of their admission in order to prepare them for the life ahead in hostels. Professional Counsellors should be engaged to counsel potential raggers also, who should be identified by the institutional authorities, teaching faculty and non-teaching employees.
- 4.08** The Committee observes that almost all the stake-holders have failed to act in some way or the other in curbing the menace of ragging in every State. The State Governments have not monitored if the ragging in their State has been curbed or not. The authorities of the institution have not played a pro-active role which was very necessary in terms of the guidelines of the Apex Court where primary responsibility was cast on the institutional authorities. On the contrary it was told to the Committee that the authorities dissuaded the victims of ragging from making any complaint.
- 4.09** It was categorically brought to the notice of the committee that in remote areas, wards of influential families involved in politics, local administration, trade and commerce, land-owning classes and other power elite indulged in most shameful acts of ragging and got away scot-free. The Committee was told that stake holders cutting across sections - institutional authorities, faculty, senior students, the management, the civil authority, non-teaching staff etc. – can curb or prevent ragging through a concerted effort. The Committee was also told that even as it should be a collective responsibility, a major share of such responsibility should rest on the head of the institution. The committee also observed that the authorities of the State and the Central Governments responsible

for implementing and monitoring the anti-ragging provisions had not done their job satisfactorily.

- 4.10** The Committee considers that the pedagogical and academic environment in campuses did not encourage activities wherein the students can engage themselves in intellectual, social and physically and culturally meaningful pursuits. On the basis of the inputs received at the various hearings, it was observed that in most of the cases ragging took place as a result of not engaging students in classes; long interval between successive classes; lack of co-curricular or sports and other extra-curricular activities; lack of strict implementation of attendance rules for senior students; and lack of monitoring of the atmosphere and the environment at eating 'joints' (canteens, cafes, *Khoka*, etc). In short, it proves the dictum - an 'idle mind is the devil's workshop'. The reason for this state of affairs has to be found partly in the declining allocation of financial resources to colleges and universities over the years resulting in the near absence of scheduled extra-curricular and co-curricular activities. Several intra-collegiate, inter-collegiate, intra-university and inter-university sports and other competitions have well nigh disappeared. Academic activities have also over the years ceased to be as exacting and challenging to sustain student interest, leaving them with leisurely hours to engage in undesirable activities.
- 4.11** It was brought to the notice of the Committee that it is almost impossible for a fresh student to lodge a complaint against a 'ragger' with the appropriate authorities. We were told that insurmountable pressure of nefarious kinds is put on those who are ragged and on their kith and kin. Worst is the plight of the hostel residents who can not seek protection from any quarter. It was the considered opinion of almost all the stakeholders that the Committee should devise ways and means in order to maintain the anonymity of the 'ragged' so that appropriate and drastic action should be taken against the ragger, without risking the identity of the victim.
- 4.12** The Committee observed, and was also told at many places, that very often members of the teaching faculty were reluctant to be posted as wardens in hostels. It is not too difficult to imagine that warden is the pivot in the residential system of campuses and from the point of view of proximity, if

available, the warden is the first accessible authority for a student in distress. Therefore the demands of the job of a warden are neither purely academic nor one of effective watch and ward alone. The job requires a combination of skills and qualifications as well as experience – communication skills, counselling tactics, and ability to empathize and understand student psychology, firmness and tact in dealing with errant and deviant seniors, and so on. While many members of the faculty may fit the bill, it is also unreasonable to expect the already overworked faculty members to be saddled with the additional taxing burden of being a warden as well.

4.13 It was unanimously brought to the notice of the Committee that drastic measures were required to curb the menace of ragging. It was also proposed before the Committee that a centralized comprehensive anti-ragging Act may be prepared with provision for exemplary punishment or in the alternative, the Indian Penal Code (IPC) may be amended appropriately to provide for ragging as an offence so that the Hon'ble Apex court's concern for 'ragging-free campuses' can be realized.

4.14 It was brought to the notice of the Committee that guidelines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court have been ignored by various institutions and other concerned authorities. Given below are the observations of the Committee specifically in respect of the guidelines of the Apex Court :-

4.14.1 The Apex Court had prescribed that education institutions should generate an "atmosphere of discipline by sending a clear message that no act of ragging shall be tolerated and any act of ragging shall not go unnoticed or unpunished". The continuation of ragging in various forms sometimes in the garb of 'mild ragging', 'introductions' etc. in the opinion of this Committee is equally deplorable and often such 'surrogate' ragging practices are patronized by institutional authorities themselves. This is established by the fact that 'social interaction' sessions or 'freshers' 'welcome' parties are traditionally organized only after sufficient time is available to seniors to rag 'freshers' – often months after the date of admission.

4.14.2 The Apex Court had asked that punishments prescribed for ragging be set out in the prospectus and other documents of institutions so as to

get disseminated among students and all concerned. While some institutions did adduce evidence of complying with this guideline, in several cases it was pointed out to the Committee that such information is either mentioned scantily or not mentioned at all.

4.14.3 Similarly, there is a provision in the guidelines for taking an undertaking from the parents of students, accepting the prescribed punishment that would accrue to their erring wards. It was brought to the notice of the Committee that according to a survey conducted by SPACE, very few institutions adhered to this condition. This was further confirmed during the Committee's interactions at its meetings.

4.14.4 The prescription from the Apex Court for preparing publicity material regarding anti-ragging measures and facilitating information for 'freshers' on whom to contact for help, is also not widely followed.

4.14.5 The Supreme Court's guidelines mention about the need to interact with 'freshers' on the part of teachers and Heads of institutions and other authorities to instill a sense of protection. The Committee observes that it is difficult, if not impossible, for 'freshers' to gain access to the institutional authorities in strict confidence and without risking their identity being exposed. Several instances of teachers, instead of being sympathetic to the condition of the 'freshers', were reported to be eulogizing the merits of undergoing ragging without a murmur – often comparing about the virtues of ragging from the times that they themselves had been ragged as students! The Committee feels that such teachers and other authorities can hardly be expected to be protectors of the victims of ragging.

4.14.6 The Apex Court had also laid down in the guidelines that there should be a Proctorial Committee consisting of senior faculty members, wardens etc. for taking timely action and to maintain constant vigil on incidents of ragging. The Committee was told that most institutions have formed some type of committee or the other to deal with issues of ragging – however, in the absence of any monitoring being done at the level of the District/ University/State or at the Centre, it is difficult to appreciate the efficacy and reflexes of such committees at the level of the institution.

4.14.7 The guidelines of the Apex Court also mention action against erring institutions and the authorities within institutions for lapses in failing to curb or prevent ragging. Not one instance of any action being taken against any institution or authorities within institutions has been reported to the Committee in respect of any of the incidents of ragging enumerated in the Annexure to this Report.

4.14.8 The Apex Court has also emphasized on the need to provide adequate and effective security to the place of accommodation of 'freshers' and regulated entry as well as prohibition of the entry of seniors after specified hours to such accommodation. The Committee came across numerous instances of accommodation being shared within the same premises by seniors and 'freshers'. One of the constraints that was pointed out by institutions was the lack of financial resources to redesign or provide separate accommodation and also to pay for security personnel for being deployed in adequate numbers.

4.14.9 One of the guidelines is to impose collective fines where those committing or abetting ragging can not be identified so that there is a message of deterrence to potential 'raggers'. The Committee could not, barring one or two isolated instances, come across instances of imposition of collective punishment.

4.14.10 The Supreme Court had prescribed that migration certificate of students should mention whether any punishment had been meted out for ragging. Not many institutions or universities follow this, as reported to the Committee.

4.14.11 The guidelines had recommended interaction sessions at frequent intervals between 'freshers' and their seniors so as to build confidence among the two groups and also to serve as opportunities to show-case talent. The Committee came across the unique model being followed in the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur where student counselors are assigned the responsibility of guiding 'freshers' allocated to their charge. Several colleges of engineering and medicine also reported to the Committee similar practices; however what is obviously a highly desirable practice is not very widely practised.

4.14.12 One of the other observations of the Supreme Court is that its guidelines are only illustrative and are not intended to come in the way of the institutions and authorities devising ways and means to curb the menace of ragging. The Committee gathers the impression that by calling the guidelines as illustrative, the Apex Court had merely underscored the need for more such steps to be taken by all concerned. Obviously, because no exhaustive list of measures to be taken in order to prevent ragging was possible to be laid down in an Order, implicit in the Supreme Court's prescription was the suggestion that each institution and all concerned should strive towards more innovative measures. The guidelines were a broad indicator of the directions that such an effort ought to take. The Committee feels that the guidelines are mandatory on all institutions, the UGC and other bodies as well as the State and Central Governments; and are to be followed without exception, being clearly not in the nature of an optional policy that may or may not be followed at the discretion of all these stake-holders.

4.14.13 Finally, the guidelines also state that unmanageable instances of ragging or that which amounts to cognizable offence may be reported to the police which should take a correctional attitude and not one of dealing with students as criminals. Indeed, the observation of the Court is that the authority of the teacher vis a vis students must be restored. It has been reported to the Committee that hardly any instance of ragging is reported to the police, and even where grave incidents resulting in deaths take place, invariably the institutions try to rationalize the episode or are reluctant to attribute the same to incidents of ragging for the fear that the "reputation" of the institution is not sullied.

4.15 A large number of representations and suggestions received by the Committee have drawn our attention that unless the law-enforcement authorities are closely associated with the internal mechanism in each institution, it would be difficult to contain the more and more aggressive forms of ragging that are emerging. It was also repeatedly brought to the notice of the Committee that the forms of ragging listed by the UGC Committee in 1999 have become 'outmoded' or 'dated' because extremely vulgar, most inhuman and unprintable forms of ragging are being resorted to these days. In one of the extreme suggestions received from Kerala (from one Shri TVK Warriar of Palakkad), it was contended that police

officers should be posted as wardens! The anguish at the deteriorating situation is understandable because it was pointed out that ragging has now assumed perverse forms – physical assaults, wrongful confinement, use of criminal force, threats, intimidation and denial of basic human rights. It was suggested to the Committee that the recommendations of the UGC Committee with regard to punishments or preventive measures have not been implemented and have remained only on paper – that college functionaries consider ragging as a non-academic issue and therefore did not get involved either due to indifference or due to a lack of commitment. It was recommended on behalf of the Kerala Private College Managements Association that the Head of the College or University Department should be “bound by law to take action for criminal offence against the students” who rag. It was pointed out that Heads of institutions are reluctant to act “fearing the politically based student organizations”, because “often the miscreants are supported by one or the other student organizations”. Several parents have suggested that Wardens and Heads of Institutions should be held accountable for their failure to control unruly behaviour on the part of students.

- 4.16** It was also reported to the Committee, through several emails, that involvement of parents in educational institutions contributed to reducing the incidents of ragging. This could be in many ways – regular Parent Teacher Association meetings, continuous communication with parents regarding the performance and attendance as well as conduct of their wards, representation of parents in the anti-ragging committees, permitting parents of ‘freshers’ easy and convenient access to the campus and hostel facilities till their wards settle down in the initial months and so on.
- 4.17** The Committee looked at the possible rationale for amending the Indian Penal Code in order to provide for the offence of Ragging and punishment thereof. According to section 40 of the Indian Penal Code, subject to exceptions set out in clauses 2 and 3 of that section, the word “offence” denotes a thing made punishable under that Code. Considering that the senior school leaving age is 18 years, both the ‘freshers’ and the senior students ragging them are adults. From the various accounts of how ragging takes place, what leads to ragging, the intention of those who commit ragging, the trauma suffered by its victims, the desirability of its

prevention etc., the Committee is satisfied that ragging fits the description of an offence with a multiplicity of ingredients each of which constitutes an offence punishable under the existing provisions of the Indian Penal Code, and none of these offences can escape penalties on grounds of being General Exceptions under Chapter IV of the Code. To elaborate, whosoever abets the punishable ingredient offences of ragging attracts the provisions (Section 107 onwards) under Chapter V; senior students conspiring to commit the offences attract the provisions (Section 120A and 120B) of Chapter VA; incidents of ragging leading to unlawful assembly or rioting and promoting enmity vis a vis 'freshers' or hiring outside elements for the purpose of rioting or unlawful assembly clearly attract Chapter VIII (Sections 141 onwards); parading 'freshers' in the nude or making them sing obscene songs or act lewdly are offences that are a public nuisance, affect decency and morals covered under Chapter XIV; several of the reported incidents of ragging already mentioned earlier in this Report are directly attributable to offences affecting the human body under Chapter XVI of the Code, varying as can be discerned from offences causing hurt, wrongful restraint, wrongful confinement, use of criminal force, assault as well as sexual offences or even unnatural offences; similarly, extortion from 'freshers' or mischief by seniors committed after preparation is made for causing hurt of the 'freshers', criminal trespass by senior students, in to the wing of the hostel or rooms where entry of seniors is barred, with the intention to cause hurt or intimidate the 'freshers' would attract Chapter XVII dealing with offences against property; criminal intimidation of juniors by the seniors during the act of ragging attracts the provisions of Chapter XXII of the Code; and lastly, Section 511 in Chapter XXIII is attracted in all cases of attempts to commit the offences punishable with imprisonment under the Code.

4.18 In the light of the above, the Committee looked at the definition of ragging as suggested by the different stake holders and also the definition in the different State laws as well as the definition referred to by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Vishwa Jagriti matter. While the dictionary meaning of the word "ragging" identifies it with the acts of teasing, taunting, playing a practical joke upon someone or holding comic parades or an act/behavior that causes harm/embarrassment to a student and other activities during certain period of a college term, in the light of the incidents reported all over the country, such a meaning does not fully or

adequately reflect the transformed face of ragging as practised at present. The Apex Court in the Vishwa Jagriti Mission matter observed that broadly speaking, ragging is any disorderly conduct whether by words spoken or written or by an act which the effect of teasing, treating or handling with rudeness any other student, indulging in rowdy or indis disciplined activities which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in a 'fresher' or a junior student or asking the students to do any act or perform something which such student will not do in the ordinary course and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame or embarrassment so as to adversely affect the physique or psyche of a 'fresher' or a junior student. The cause of indulging in ragging is deriving a sadistic pleasure or showing off power, authority or superiority by the seniors over their juniors or "freshers".

4.19 Literature on ragging would indicate that 'hazing' is often a ritualistic test, which may constitute harassment, abuse or humiliation with requirements to perform meaningless tasks, sometimes as a way of initiation into a social group. The definition can refer to either physical (sometimes violent) or mental (possibly degrading) practices. The word is most frequently encountered in the United States and Canada; in the British Commonwealth ragging or fagging is usually used instead. Hazing is often used as a method to promote group loyalty and camaraderie through shared suffering (male bonding in fraternities), either with fellow participants, past participants or both. According to a mention found in the Wikipedia ragging is a term used for active, systematic human rights abuse, similar to hazing and fagging, the severest forms of which are found in engineering, medical and military colleges. CURE suggested to the Committee an alternative definition, according to which ragging is an act of aggression committed by an individual or a group of individuals over another individual or a group of individuals where the former, by virtue of their being senior to the latter, somehow gets the authority and audacity to commit the act and the latter, by virtue of their being new to the institution, are automatic victims. SPACE also offered the Committee an alternative definition – as mentioned earlier, it was suggested to us that the Apex Court's definition did not cover all aspects of ragging – according to SPACE, ragging is a systemized form of human rights abuse in educational institutions in South Asia, the worst forms of which are found

in engineering, medical and military colleges. It is committed by 'senior' students (those in second year or *higher*) upon "freshers" or first-year students. The forms and traditions of ragging may vary from one place to another, but the greatest common factor in ragging in any educational institution is the creation of an environment of constant fear and intimidation of "freshers", wherein even the air they breathe becomes 'Kafkaesque'; every bit of matter around them is their enemy.

4.20 The Committee studied the various State laws. The Maharashtra Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1999 defines ragging as display or disorderly conduct, doing of any act which causes or is likely to cause physical or psychological harm or raise apprehension or fear or shame or embarrassment to a student in any educational institution. The Kerala Prohibition of Ragging Act 1998 defines ragging as teasing, abusing or causing hurt or asking student to do an act which he is unwilling to do. The State law in Andhra Pradesh defines ragging as doing an act, which causes or is likely to cause insult or annoyance or fear or apprehension or threat or intimidation or outrage modesty or insult to a student. According to the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Ragging Act 1997, ragging means display of noisy, disorderly conduct, doing any act, which causes or is likely to cause physical or psychological harm or raise apprehension or fear or shame or embarrassment to a student in any educational institution and includes teasing, abusing of, playing practical jokes on or causing hurt to, such students; or asking the student to do any act or perform something, which such student will not, in the ordinary course, willingly do. The West Bengal Prohibition of Ragging in Educational Institutions Act, 2000 defines ragging means doing of any act, which causes or is likely to cause, any physical, psychological or physiological harm or apprehension or shame or embarrassment to a student and includes teasing or abusing of, playing practical jokes on, or causing hurt to, any student, or asking any student to do any act, or perform anything, which he would not, in the ordinary course, be willing to do or perform. According to the Assam Prohibition of Ragging Bill, 1998, ragging means either display of noisy or disorderly conduct or doing of any act which causes or is likely to cause social, physical or psychological harm or raise apprehension or fear or shame or embarrassment to any student in any educational institution and includes teasing, abusing of, playing practical jokes on or causing hurt to, such students; or asking the student to do any act or perform something

which such student will not, in the ordinary course, willingly do. According to a Private Member Bill introduced in the Goa Legislature called the Goa Prohibition of Ragging Bill, 2006, ragging means display of disorderly conduct, doing any act, which causes or is likely to cause physical or psychological harm or raise apprehension or fear or shame or embarrassment to a student in any educational institution and includes teasing, abusing, threatening or playing practical jokes on, or causing hurt to, such students; or asking a student to do any act or perform something, which such student will not, in the ordinary course, willingly do. The Chhattisgarh Shaikshanik Sansthaon Me Pratarna Ka Pratishedh Adhiniyam, 2001, defines ragging as causing, inducing, compelling or forcing a student, whether by way of a practical joke or otherwise, to do any act which detracts from human dignity or violates his person or exposes him to ridicule or forbear from doing any unlawful act, by intimidating, wrongfully restraining, wrongfully confining, or injuring him or by using criminal force to him or by holding out to him any threat or such intimidation, wrongful restraint, wrongful confinement, injury or the use of criminal force.

- 4.21** The Committee observes that while all the State laws recognize the physical, physiological or psychological consequences of ragging, a comparatively more exhaustive definition is to be found in the Chhattisgarh Act which expressly acknowledges the reality that ragging has transformed from mere pranks or practical jokes or causing of annoyance to junior students by the seniors to the extremely serious criminality of a range of possible offences. What is missing from the State laws is the sexual dimension of ragging which is being resorted to more recently.
- 4.22** As mentioned in the Chapter on the Methodology, the Committee felt it would be necessary to understand the psychology of students who fall victims to ragging as well as of those who have a propensity to rag. The summary results of the survey that we conducted across students of universities and colleges through a questionnaire designed by Prof. Aruna Broota is **Annexure IV**. The response to the first question on the significance attached to the first few days in college as a fresher indicates that more than half of the sample considers it to be a positive experience.

This could be inferred from the wide variety of responses – some called it an opportunity to explore the unknown, making new friends, an experience far different from the school days, exciting change and similar other adjectives have been used by respondents. One in every five respondents has indicated a mixed feeling, neither too effusive in terms of the significance attached to college life, nor any negative emotions. However, as many as twenty eight percent of the responses have been outright negative. Experiences range from loneliness, dullness, and a fear of the unknown, to being overawed and living in anxiety about being ragged and teased by seniors. It is interesting to note that while more than half of the responses were positive when dealing with the question of early life in the college, the question on the early days in the hostel brought out only sixteen percent positive responses. The negative responses showed consistency of results, however the mixed reactions show a steep increase to fifty three percent. What can be said is that life in hostels is not all that happy compared to life in the college in general, it could also be due to home sickness or other reasons, but this is an interesting contrast. The question on expectations from the new institution that they join has brought forth an expected response with as many as sixty three percent desiring good academic environment, good infrastructure and good placement opportunities. The second highest number of respondents (fifteen percent) worry about discipline and care in the new environment, and eleven percent wish to be granted freedoms and do not desire any controls or fines etc. As many as forty four percent of the respondents expect their seniors to guide and help them in academic matters, the second largest group of respondents (thirty seven percent) seek friendship and affection from their seniors, while as many as ten percent want to escape ragging and another three percent do not want anything from their seniors. These are significant responses and desire for friendship and affection or to escape ragging or to stay away from seniors, which together account for as many as fifty percent or exactly half of the respondents, points to an uncomfortable relationship or the desire to be on the right side of the seniors. The power equation in the campuses is unmistakable.

4.23 While the Committee had to cull out the sense of responses to questions of a qualitative nature by categorizing them in to broad aspects of expectations and behaviour – and we may even be off the mark in our assessment of the situation – in contrast, the responses to objective type questions figuring in the questionnaire were more direct and therefore could be more accurately inferred. When asked as to how they make new friends, the strategy is through helping the strangers (thirty three percent) and through an affable smiling approach (forty seven percent). As is to be expected there are only a few extreme instances of making friends through aggressive behaviour – four percent do so by teasing and one percent through scaring off the strangers. These extreme cases, we suspect are the potential ‘raggers’. When asked whether they took the lead in making friends, an overwhelming seventy one percent responded as taking the initiative in making new friends, only twenty three percent wait for the other person to take the initiative. In the reaction to being subjected to bullying, as is to be expected the largest number (forty six percent) of respondents feel angry, and twenty eight percent feel insulted when bullied. Strangely, as many as seventeen percent of students feel important even though subjected to ragging – it is easy to see why we came across a number of responses where ragging has been indicated to be an enjoyable experience, as would be clear from the response to the statement “ I enjoy being teased and bullied”, where nearly half of the respondents (forty eight percent) say they enjoy the experience of being bullied while twenty two percent say they would stay away from the institution if bullied, and six percent are even willing to leave studies if subjected to being bullied or teased. Another proposition was designed to test the attention seeking tendencies among the respondents :“I like to be in the limelight, by hook or by crook”. About half of the respondents (fifty two percent) are not interested in seeking any attention to themselves, but a significant one-third of them would like to be in the limelight by adopting any means. This is a dangerous portent among the youth. We may hasten to add that no gender classification of responses has been done and that would remain a

limitation of the survey. The Questionnaire asked whether the respondents would be happy to be friends with someone who hurts them. Even though as many as fifty five percent gave an emphatic no to this suggestion, what is significant is that two in every five respondents (forty one percent) would not mind mending relationships even if they were hurt by someone. This perhaps is that reason why incidents of ragging continue go unreported and are self perpetuating, because those who do not mind being hurt or bullied would naturally think little of bullying or hurting others as relationships in their view do not get affected. Finally, respondents were asked whether they thought there ought to be procedures and guidelines as to how junior and senior students should relate to each other in the first few days of college. It is heartening to note that as many as an overwhelming seventy two percent want well described procedures and guidelines to regulate relationship between junior and senior students. The Committee referred the above interpretation of the findings of the survey to Prof. (Dr.) Aruna Broota, who while endorsing the conclusions, suggested several lines of action in follow up, which we have incorporated appropriately in our recommendations.

4.24 In the light of the above observations, the Committee has ventured to make its recommendations, which follow.

5. Recommendations

- 5.01** Based on its interactions and the elaborate methodology followed by it, the Committee is convinced that the society at large considers ragging as a definite menace. We are equally convinced that softer options have not worked and therefore it is time for tough measures. The Committee's recommendations, in terms of actions necessary, fall in six levels, namely, schools, higher educational institutions, district administration, universities, State authorities and Central authorities. At each level, we recommend that the active involvement of media and the civil society is essential in tackling the problem of ragging.
- 5.02** At the School level, the Committee recommends that on the same lines as topics on environment education were introduced in the school curriculum, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and the respective State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), should devise methodologies and content for introducing Human Rights education of which awareness against ragging should be a compulsory part. Where inputs in Human Rights already exist, the same should be reviewed to ensure that awareness and exposure to the evil of ragging are highlighted in the syllabi. In the lower classes, respect for human rights, consciousness against violating others' rights, and respect for privacy, diversity and equality should be discreetly grafted into the lessons and exercises right from the primary and elementary stages of schooling in order to inculcate the desirable value system from the formative years of every child.
- 5.03** At the secondary and senior secondary stages of schooling, every school should be required to arrange regular and periodic psychological-counselling sessions for every student till the time he/she passes out from the school. Parents and teachers should also be involved in such sessions. Every year there should be a certain number of mandatory counselling sessions with experienced psychologists. The Committee was informed by experts that 20 counselling workshop/sessions were desirable each year. Since it may not be immediately possible to avail the services of a vast number of trained psychologists, it is recommended that the B.Ed. and Teacher training programmes should be mandated to provide for anti-ragging and human-rights appreciation inputs so that every teacher is

equipped to provide at least the rudiments of the counselling approach.

- 5.04** What would be desirable is that the school leaving certificate and the character certificate categorically mentions the status of the student in terms of his/her behavioural pattern; which should be mandatory to be submitted at the time of admission at the institute of higher learning. This certificate should mention whether the student has displayed persistent violent or aggressive behaviour or any desire to harm others. It is recommended that each State should create a pool of professional counsellors at the level of the district, who visit each and every school in every state to fill the obligation stated above. The District Institutes of Educational Technology (DIETs) should be reoriented for the purpose.
- 5.05** The Committee endorses the view that bullying and corporal punishments at the school level legitimize ideas of power abuse, harassment, violation of dignity and privacy, and as such may prepare the ground for ragging at the college level. Bullying is a phenomenon in which the students tease and humiliate other students in various ways. Corporal punishment has been banned by some states viz. Goa, Delhi and Tamil Nadu. Therefore, teachers at the school level must be made conscious of this fact. The curriculum for B.Ed. and other teacher training courses, as well as in-service training courses for the teachers, should include topics on sensitization against corporal punishment and checking of bullying amongst students.
- 5.06** At the level of the Higher educational institutions, it should be mandatory for the student at the time of admission to submit documentation in respect of (i) the school leaving certificate/character certificate which will include a report on behavioural pattern; (and, in due course include the report by a professional counsellor). The institution may thereupon keep intense watch upon a student who has a negative entry in this regard. (ii) an annual undertaking to be signed by each student, whether fresher or senior, and his/her parent(s) jointly stating that each of them have read the relevant instructions/regulations against ragging, as well as punishments, and that if the ward has been found guilty he/she will be proceeded against. The UGC Committee (1999) had also recommended so and the directions of the Apex Court also included this. While endorsing these recommendations, we emphasize specifically the following: First, we

strongly recommend that such an undertaking should be provided in English as well as in the vernacular (mother tongue of the parent); second, the undertaking should be furnished at the beginning of each academic year by every student; third, the undertaking should be obtained every year from each student admitted to the hostel; and finally, the undertaking should be appended to a brochure containing the guidelines and other relevant instructions in regard to ragging and consequences of indulging in ragging - so that there is no denial of the responsibility on the one hand, and there is also a clear understanding of the requirement by all concerned, including parents who may be otherwise deficient in their facility with the English language. Merely getting an undertaking signed from students and parents, without linking it with the information relevant to ragging in our opinion would be ineffective, and hence our modified recommendations.

5.07 We feel that it is extremely important that this requirement of a binding undertaking is complied with by all institutions, and some superior level bodies must cross-verify and vouch that there is strict compliance thereto. This has to be ensured by the affiliating university and also verified by bodies such as the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), the UGC Expert Committees, including those which visit institutions for recognition under section 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act, AICTE's Committees, and Committees of other statutory councils or authorities such as the Medical Council of India (MCI), the Dental Council of India (DCI), the Nursing Council of India (NCI) etc. At present these bodies appear to perceive ragging merely as a disciplinary issue in which the regulatory authorities have little or no role, and in the context of curbing the menace of ragging appropriate directions must be given defining their role and responsibility. Indeed, without the active involvement of the multitude of bodies and authorities, a continuous vigil cannot be maintained. We are constrained to remark that while ensuring a ragging-free environment in campuses has a direct bearing on the standards of higher education, none of the bodies responsible for coordinating/ establishing or maintaining standards of higher education (technical and medical etc. included) with whom we interacted, radiate the confidence that they consider the continuing practice of ragging as contributing to lowering of the standards.

- 5.08** The University Grants Commission and the statutory bodies such as the AICTE, MCI, DCI, NCI, ICAR as well as affiliating universities and Directorates of Higher, Technical, Agricultural and Medical etc. Education of State Governments, must make it mandatory and ensure that each institution compulsorily incorporates in the 'prospectus' and in other admission related documents, the earlier directions or any future directions of the Apex Court and/or of the Central or State Governments as applicable, so that candidates and their parents are sensitized in respect of the prohibition and consequences of ragging. Non-compliance with the directives against ragging in any manner whatsoever shall be considered as lowering of academic standards by the errant institution. The regulatory authorities must proceed against such errant institutions by imposing the prescribed penalties already provided under their respective statutes/regulations etc. which they would otherwise have exercised in matters of lowering of academic standards.
- 5.09** Just as there ought to be disincentives as mentioned in paragraph 5.08 above for failure to prevent ragging, there should be incentives to institutions for curbing it. By way of incentives, the Central Government, State Governments, University Grants Commission and other funding bodies such as the AICTE and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research etc. should provide special/additional annual financial grants-in-aid to those of the universities and colleges, which report a blemish-less record in terms of there being no incidents of ragging. These bodies should also institute another category of financial awards or incentives for colleges or universities which take stringent action against those responsible in respect of ragging incidents. This would overcome the present problem of institutions covering up incidents for fear of adverse impact on reputation.
- 5.10** The Committee notes that while there have been some isolated efforts at publicizing the concern and ban in respect of ragging, it could not come across any meaningful advertisement campaign through the various news media, either nationally or regionally, despite the 2001 direction of the Apex Court. This indicates a general apathy and a failure to sensitize society. The entire approach to ragging appears to be viewed as a seasonal issue, to be attended to only during the admission time and put on the back-burner after the heat and dust of admissions settle down. We recommend that there has to be a concerted effort on the part of Central

and State Governments as well as the universities in publicizing the ills of ragging and in sensitizing and building public opinion.

- 5.11** We have described the need to launch effective advertisement campaigns at the national and regional level – the Central Government through the Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity (DAVP) and the State Governments through their Directorates of Information or Public Relations have the primary responsibility in this regard. This apart, multi-pronged campaigns have to be launched and sustained by universities as well as the institutions, locally. Extensive publicity must be undertaken by the institution by means of creative posters, audio-visual aids, by holding counselling sessions, workshops, painting and design competitions among students and other methods as it deems fit. We came across a number of initiatives by institutions, one such effort forms the back cover of our report.
- 5.12** The Committee recommends that it is critical that institutions promote a sense of confidence among every student entering the portals of higher education. It is important that the natural anxiety among the ‘freshers’ is addressed by institutional authorities. We recommend that there should be a clear gap of one to two weeks between the date of joining of ‘freshers’ and the seniors, classes for the seniors should commence later. This would enable the ‘freshers’ to familiarize themselves with the campus environment and adjust to the sudden changeover from schools to higher education. In addition, this period would be critical in building and consolidating a definite sense of bonding among the ‘freshers’ who would be better equipped to deal with the seniors with confidence acquired during the interim. It must be ensured that senior students are not allowed to enter the campus, including the hostels, under any pretext. The only exception to this rule may be for a few senior students who have been appointed by the institutional authorities for assisting in the orientation programme. We recommend that it should be mandatory for institutions to inform parents of senior students to send their wards only on the due date and not earlier. This system is in practice in some institutions and the Committee recommends that this must be implemented in all institutions. We further recommend that every university – whether established by Central law or State law or declared by the Central Government as an institution deemed to be university – must compulsorily amend its

relevant Ordinances or bye-laws to ratify the schedule of the first two weeks described above as well as in the following paragraphs. We acknowledge that in some professional programmes – medicine and engineering in particular – there could be some practical difficulties in ensuring that senior students are not present on the campus when freshers join, however we feel that if the respective Councils make a sincere effort to adapt their academic calendar suitably this should not be such an insurmountable problem.

- 5.13** We further recommend that social events such as ‘welcome parties’ or ‘freshers’ day celebrations in honour of ‘freshers’ is a sound tradition that needs to be encouraged by institutions. However, what is lamentable is that such events which often mark the ending of ragging and beginning of bonhomie among seniors and ‘freshers’, is scheduled only after a prolonged bout of ragging. Therefore, we recommend that in every institution, the ‘freshers’ day or ‘welcome party’ shall be concluded within the first two weeks of the beginning of the academic session, that is not later than one week after the commencement of classes for the seniors in the context of our recommendation in 5.12 above. In any such event, celebrating the ‘freshers’ day or party, college faculty must be present and must ensure that no ragging or untoward incident takes place on the occasion.
- 5.14** We also recommend that every institution should engage or seek the assistance of professional counsellors at the time of admissions to counsel ‘freshers’ in order to prepare them for the life ahead, particularly for adjusting to the life in hostels. The Committee feels that preparing students in this manner would enable them to cope with the stresses of the hitherto unknown life in the campus.
- 5.15** The Committee recommends that each institution, and where required the affiliating university, should lay down a calendar of events and activities to facilitate and complement familiarization of juniors with the academic environment of the institution. This calendar must be automatically ratified under the relevant Ordinances of the affiliating university. There should be an introductory interaction with faculty members, members of the staff and senior students as was suggested by the UGC Committee (1999) as well. The breakup of the orientation programme should be as

follows: (i) the head of the institution must address all fresh students on the first day of the academic session, and the address must amongst other issues educate them about their rights against harassment of any kind including ragging; and all faculty members must invariably be present on the occasion; (ii) the second orientation programme for fresh students should be held for each course/class, during which all the respective departmental faculty must be present. The main purpose of this orientation would be to inculcate a sense of bonding and a feeling of fraternity among the freshers, as well as to develop an affinity towards the teaching faculty; (iii) the third orientation programme for fresh students should be conducted at the level of the class/section/division; (iv) one or more counselling sessions must be arranged through out the first week as part of the orientation sessions, during which a professional counsellor should address 'freshers' and motivate them to confidently deal with strangers/seniors; (v) during this week each institution should organize cultural events, sports and other activities, for 'freshers' to get to know each other; there should be very little or no 'serious' academic activity which digresses from the familiarization and sensitization programmes chalked out by the institution; we also recommend that the UGC and other funding bodies must make special allocations for the purpose of enabling institutions to engage counsellors and organize various events that contribute to the building of confidence among the 'freshers'. (vi) the institution must not only work out a variety of alternative methods of interactions, but should also publicize the details of the orientation programmes described above.

- 5.16** We recommend that on the arrival of senior students after the first week or after the second week as the case may be, further orientation programmes must be scheduled as follows (i) joint sensitization programme and counselling of both 'freshers' and seniors by a professional counsellor; (ii) joint orientation programme of 'freshers' and seniors to be addressed by the Principal/Head of the institution, and the anti-ragging committee; (iii) organisation on a large scale of cultural, sports and other activities to provide a platform for the 'freshers' and seniors to interact in the presence of faculty members; (iv) in the hostel, the warden should address all students; may request two junior colleagues from the college faculty to assist the warden by becoming resident tutors for a temporary duration; and, the UGC and other funding bodies should provide financial grants for

meeting the expenditure on resident tutors (v) It is strongly recommended that as far as possible faculty members should dine with the hostel residents in their respective hostels to instill a feeling of confidence among the fresh residents.

5.17 The Committee agrees with the views expressed by student leaders of various ideological affiliations with whom it interacted that a thriving and active students' association of comprising of genuinely enrolled students helps in minimising incidents of ragging, as each competing student group during elections to the student body would have a vested interest in 'protecting' target group of fresher voters from being subjected to ragging by others. As a matter of fact, it was repeatedly brought to the notice of the Committee that one of the reasons for engineering and medical or professional colleges being highly ragging prone is due to the absence of genuine student election activity. Although much can be said in this regard, including the evidence that ragging has slowly spread to other types of institutions as well, we recommend that the reforms in student body elections approved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on the basis of the recommendations of the J.M.Lyngdoh Committee should be implemented expeditiously and the students' union election must be held within 15 days of the beginning of the academic session. This will undermine the nexus, reported in some places, between campus politics and ragging.

5.18 We recommend that every institution must have an Anti-Ragging Committee and an Anti-Ragging Squad. It is essential to have a diverse mix of membership in terms of levels as well as gender in both the Anti-Ragging Squad as well as the Anti-Ragging Committee. The Anti-Ragging Committee at the level of the institution should consist of the representatives of civil and police administration, local media, Non Government Organizations involved in youth activities, representatives of faculty members, representatives of parents, representatives of students belonging to the freshers' category as well as seniors, non-teaching staff and should be headed by the Head of the Institution. The Anti-Ragging Squad, in contrast, should be a body with vigil, oversight and patrolling functions and should appropriately be a smaller body which should be nominated by the Head of the institution with such representation as considered necessary to keep it mobile, alert and active at all times. The Squad may be called upon to make surprise raids on hostels and other hot

spots and should be empowered to inspect places of potential ragging. The Squad should work under the overall guidance of the Anti-Ragging Committee. The Squad should not have any outside representation and should only consist of members belonging to the various sections of the campus community.

5.19 We recommend that there should also be a 'Mentoring Cell' in each institution to oversee and involve senior students as Mentors for the 'freshers'. The Mentoring Cell should be formed at the end of every academic year where applications should be invited from students to join the Mentoring Cell as Mentors for the succeeding academic year. There should be as many levels or tiers of Mentors as the number of batches in the institution. The Anti-Ragging Squad of the institution and the Head/Principal should be involved in selecting the first level of Mentors who would be chosen from among the batch of students immediately senior to the 'freshers'. A diverse mix of Mentors would be desirable who would be selected at the ratio of one student for a certain number of 'freshers'. It has been observed that a ratio of 1:6 is optimal. There should be a hierarchy of Mentors, that is, for every group of six Mentors chosen from the 2nd year or the batch immediately senior to the 'freshers', there should be one second level Mentor. Then there would be one third year student per six Mentors of the second level and so on. At every level of Mentors, there should be a Faculty Adviser. The warden and faculty would directly deal with the highest level of Mentors, which is not to say that they would not interact with the other tiers of Mentors, but such interaction would be more indirect. Every Mentor at the first level should be allowed in to the hostel when 'freshers' join and, 'freshers' and Mentors should be introduced to each other. The Mentors would help 'freshers' in settling down. This makes sure that 'freshers' have some seniors to fall back on without the fear of ragging and would serve by way of "peer counselling". This model has been implemented in some places and has been successful. The third year Mentors and the faculty in-charge should oversee the working of the Mentoring Cell and make sure that the Mentors don't misuse their powers.

5.20 We also recommend that anonymous random surveys must be conducted by each institution, across the entire 1st year batch of students ('freshers') every fortnight during the first three months of the academic session in

order to verify and cross-check whether the campus is indeed free of ragging or not. The institution may design its own methodology of conducting such a survey. It is extremely important that the institution does not compromise the anonymity of the whistle blowers.

5.21 The job requirement for the warden calls for a dedicated cadre of trained and specially qualified professionals. In a situation of shortage of teachers in higher education, sparing academics for the duties of wardens also needs to be reviewed. We feel that it is unfair to thrust this specialized responsibility on teachers and other academics who have to discharge the functions in addition to the demands of teaching or research. This is not, however, to suggest that academics can not discharge the obligations of the warden, indeed a large number of them are already doing it successfully, but this arrangement is not desirable in all cases. We recommend that the UGC and other regulatory bodies should lay down the eligibility of the post of warden reflecting both the command and control aspects of maintaining discipline, as well as the softer skills of counselling and communicating with the youth outside of the class-room situations. The post of warden must carry the necessary incentive to attract the right type of eligible candidates, and motivate the incumbent.

5.22 We recommend that in the light of the increasing number of private commercially managed lodges or hostels outside campuses, such hostels and management must be registered with the local police authorities and permission to start such hostels or register them must necessarily be recommended by the Heads of educational institutions. It should be mandatory for both local police, local administration as well the institutional authorities to ensure vigil on incidents that may come with in the definition of ragging. Managements of such private hostels should be responsible for non-reporting of cases of ragging in such premises. Local authorities as well as the institutional authorities should be responsible for action in the event of ragging in such premises, just as they would be for incidents within campuses. The Committee also recommends that besides registering private hostels as stated above, the towns or cities where educational institutions are located should be apportioned as sectors among faculty members, as is being done by some institutions, so that they could maintain vigil and report any incidents of ragging outside campuses and en route while 'freshers' commute.

5.23 The Committee respects the autonomy of academic institutions and believes that to the extent possible incidents of harassment of ‘freshers’ by seniors should be dealt with under the prevalent ordinances or statutes and the procedures prescribed thereunder or under the provisions of the relevant State law. However, where the victim or his/her parent/guardian is not satisfied with the action taken by the Head of the institution or by other institutional authorities, or where the Head of the institution is of the opinion that the incident ought to be so reported, it must be mandatory for the institution to file a First Information Report with the local police authorities. Such reports should also be made to the civil Authorities (such as Sub Divisional Magistrate, Deputy Commissioner or District Magistrate), the higher Police Authorities (Commissioner or Superintendent of Police or his Deputies) and also to the media for wider dissemination. In incidents of extreme sensitivity or grave consequences, such reports should also be made to the appropriate State Authorities. Media reports may at times kindle the interest of civil society activists and Non Government Organizations, whose involvement in tackling incidents of ragging or the prevention of such incidents must be welcomed and not looked upon as any hindrance. Universities and State or Central Governments should also encourage institutional authorities to share information in respect of ragging, rather than sweeping any incident under the carpet; we believe that reporting information about incidents of ragging contributes to the prevention and recurrence of such incidents, while attempts to cover up only result in more unreported incidents taking place and matters getting out of control for the authorities. The Committee expects the sub-divisional, district and divisional or State level authorities also to share information rather than prevent access to information for the media and the civil society.

5.24 The Committee recommends that institutions must adhere to complaints in regard to ragging or any suo motu information in respect thereof, which its authorities may come across promptly, and all relevant and necessary action must be attended to with great despatch. The complaints or information in regard to ragging could be oral or written and even from third parties and the confidentiality of the source of information must be protected at all costs. Remedial action must be initiated and completed within the week of the incident itself so that complaints do not linger on

and allow either interest in pursuing the matter to wane or enable the culprits to tamper evidence or influence witnesses.

- 5.25** The Committee recommends that preventing or acting against ragging should be the collective responsibility of all levels and sections of authorities or functionaries within the institution i.e. administrative head, teaching faculty and non-teaching employees and not merely that of the specific body constituted for prevention of ragging. In case of any incident taking place all the sections must co-ordinate with the sense of moral propriety and share the responsibility and accountability.
- 5.26** The burden of proof must, in the opinion of the Committee, lie on the perpetrator and not on the victim to prove that ragging did not take place. As mentioned earlier in the previous Chapter, dealing with the Observations of the Committee, we did not come across any significant instance of implementing the earlier directions of the Apex Court in regard to collective punishment in those cases where the perpetrators could not be identified. Nevertheless, the concept of collective fines or punishment is a time-tested method of making both active as well as passive participants or abettors pay for the crime and therefore we recommend that collective punishment must continue to be in force, with a more effective monitoring at higher levels.
- 5.27** Wardens must be accessible at all hours and therefore it is important that they be available on telephone and other modes of communication – therefore, we recommend that wardens must be issued mobile phones by the institutions and the details of their telephone number must be widely publicised. Similarly, the telephone numbers of the other important functionaries – Heads of institutions, faculty members, members of the anti-ragging committees, district and sub-divisional authorities and state authorities where relevant, should also be widely disseminated for the needy to get in touch or seek help in emergencies. The Committee recommends that brochures or booklet/leaflet distributed to each student at the beginning of each academic session for obtaining undertaking not to indulge or abet ragging, shall contain the blueprint of prevention and methods of redress.
- 5.28** At the level of the District, we recommend a District level Anti-Ragging

Committee, which should consist of the Heads of Higher Education Institutions as members. It should be headed by the District Collector/Deputy Commissioner/District Magistrate and should also have the Superintendent of Police/ SSP of the District as member. The Additional District Magistrate should be a member-secretary of the Committee, which should also have representation of the local media and district level Non Government Organizations actively associated in youth development programmes, as well as representatives of all student organizations. The District level Committee should hold preparatory meetings during the summer vacation meetings to take stock of the state of preparedness of each institution and their compliance with the policies and directions or guidelines of the appropriate bodies, the university/State/Central authorities; and the Apex Court's guidelines in regard to curbing the menace of ragging. We have already emphasized on the need for publicity campaigns, summer months may be appropriate to launch such campaigns. Some of the role expectations from the District level Committees have already been mentioned in the preceding paragraphs dealing with activities at the level of Schools as well as higher education institutions and therefore are not being repeated.

- 5.29** We have thought through the suggestion that the District level Committee should function as some sort of an appellate forum to the action taken by the institution level Anti-Ragging Committee. We feel that this is neither necessary nor desirable. It is not necessary in the context of the recommendation that we propose to make in respect of the scheme of penalty later in this Chapter. It is not desirable from the point of view that such a mechanism lends an extra-campus dimension to the tackling of intra-campus disciplinary matters. All matters of discipline within teaching institutions, in our opinion, must be resolved within the campus – except those impinging on law and order or breach of peace or public tranquillity, all of which should be dealt with under the penal laws of the land; fortifying of which is being suggested by us later on.
- 5.30** At the level of the University, we recommend that there should be a Monitoring Cell on Ragging, which should coordinate with the affiliated colleges and institutions under its domain. The Cell should call for reports from the Heads of institutions in regard to the activities of the Anti-Ragging Committees, Anti-Ragging Squads, Mentoring Cells at the level of

the institution, the compliance with instructions on conducting orientation programmes, counselling sessions, the incidents of ragging, the problems faced by wardens or other officials. It should also keep itself abreast of the decisions of the District level Anti-Ragging Committee. This Monitoring Cell should also review the efforts made by institutions to publicize anti-ragging measures, soliciting of undertaking from parents and students each year to abstain from ragging activities or willingness to be penalized for violations; and should function as the prime mover for initiating action on the part of the appropriate authorities of the university for amending the Statutes or Ordinances or Bye-laws to facilitate the implementation of anti-ragging measures at the level of the institution.

5.31 At the State level, we recommend that there should be a Monitoring Cell at the level of the Chancellor of the State Universities, who may also coordinate with those of the Central Government institutions located in the State in which the Governor has a defined role under the relevant law. Governors, in their capacity as Chancellors of State Universities, can leverage the influence of their office to ensure that the State Government as well as the university authorities are suitably instructed to be alert in regard to ragging. The involvement of Governors would also ensure that the autonomy of institutions of higher learning is not compromised. In addition, Governors of States are associated with Central Universities in their role as Chief Rector/Chancellor etc. and can oversee the function of coordination where required vis a vis the office of the President of India in his capacity as the Visitor of the Central Universities and also the Central Government in the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The State level Monitoring Cell should receive periodically, and at such frequencies that it may lay down, status reports from the University level Monitoring Cells and District level Anti-Ragging Committees.

5.32 The Heads of institutions should be required to submit, to the Vice Chancellor of the University, weekly reports during first three months of the reopening of the institution and there after reports each month on the status of compliance with anti-ragging measures. The Vice Chancellor should submit fortnightly reports of the University level Monitoring Cell to the State level Cell under the Chancellor. The fortnightly reports as well as the weekly reports should be compulsorily shared with the media, so that 'nil' reports if any are also in the public domain. Wide publicity, including

mandatory hosting of information on the institutional web-site, should be given to such 'nil' reports so that the media acts as a 'watchdog' for feedback and citizens exercise their Right to Information, in case false claims are made by institutions with a view to protect their "reputation".

5.33 At the National level, we recommend that the University Grants Commission should be responsible for coordinating and monitoring the anti-ragging movement across the country and should constitute a Board for Coordination consisting of the following : (i) representative of the AICTE (ii) a representative of the IITs (iii) a representative of the NITs (iv) a representative of the IIMs (v) a representative of the MCI (vi) representative of the DCI (vii) a representative of the NCI (viii) a representative of the ICAR (ix) a representative of the Veterinary Council and such other representatives as have to do with higher education and are not represented in the categories mentioned above. The Committee has already expressed its disappointment that despite the passage of over six years since the directions of the Apex Court, neither the UGC nor any of the statutory authorities in the different sectors of higher education have focussed their attention in dealing with the menace of ragging. The UGC should constitute an institutional mechanism – such as a Cell within the Commission to provide secretarial support for collection of information and monitoring. There should be no delay on this account for any reason, the Cell should be carved out of its existing secretariat and should coordinate with the State level and University level Committees for effective implementation of anti-ragging measures. The UGC and the other statutory authorities should intervene wherever their existing guidelines or academic instructions come in the way of implementation of the recommendations being made in this report. The Commission and the other funding bodies should also provide adequate funds to universities and colleges for carrying out the mandate of curbing incidents of ragging. It should coordinate with the other statutory authorities (AICTE, MCI, DCI, ICAR, NCTE, NCI etc) so that timely instructions are sent by such authorities for enabling or mandating institutions to prevent and prohibit ragging as well as to take action against institutions that tolerate or do not report incidents of ragging. The UGC and the other funding agencies should also work out a mechanism of providing grants-in-aid where institutions successfully prevent occurrence of ragging or where stern action is taken by institutions against ragging incidents.

5.34 The UGC and the statutory bodies must issue the necessary guidelines or regulations prescribing the qualifications and eligibility of persons for holding the post of wardens in hostels. They should work out a suitable scale of pay for the post of wardens and also assist institutions to create sufficient number of posts in the cadre of wardens during the XI th Plan period for which allocations should be provided by the Commission. Just as the UGC must ensure that every hostel in the academic institutions must have a professional warden as stated above the AICTE, MCI etc. and State Governments should be responsible for the appointments of the respective Cadre of wardens. The necessary facilitating amendments must be carried out in the statutes of universities and other institutions for the purpose of creating the new Cadre. The UGC may also consider encouraging universities to start specialized courses and programmes of study in Hostel Administration.

5.35 One class of institutions not covered under our recommendations above is that of the institutions deemed to be universities, which come under the purview of the UGC and the Central Government. These institutions, commonly referred to as “deemed universities” consist of constituent units which impart all types of higher education including professional education in engineering, medicine etc. Ragging is stated to be as prevalent in several of them as in other public institutions or universities established by legislatures of States or by Parliament. Monitoring the status of anti-ragging measures and prevention of incidents of ragging in these institutions would logically be the responsibility of the University Grants Commission’s national level Monitoring Cell. It should be ensured that the directions in regard to the setting up of Anti-Ragging Committees, Anti-Ragging Squads, Mentoring Cells recommended by us in respect of institutions are complied with by the constituent units of deemed universities as well. The anti-ragging mechanism at the level of such constituent units of deemed universities must coordinate its activities vis a vis the district level mechanism recommended by us in earlier paragraphs. Similarly, each deemed university should constitute the university level monitoring cell which should coordinate the anti-ragging activities at the level of the constituent units and should also report to the Monitoring Cell at the UGC.

- 5.36** Compliance with anti-ragging measures recommended and required to be brought in to effect by institutions of higher education, universities as well as deemed universities, should be adequately recognized by the UGC and other statutory authorities while earmarking financial assistance to them as well as while according them academic recognition or while granting expansion in capacity of seats in various branches of study or while sanctioning new programmes of study.
- 5.37** What should be the role of the State Governments and the Central Government in the efforts to curb the menace of ragging? We recommend that the responsibility of generating mass awareness and public opinion against ragging is a function which the appropriate Governments through the machinery at their disposal and through intelligent use of the media as well as cooption of civil society activists can accomplish efficiently. We recommend that there should be media advisory committees at the level of each State Government and at the national level with the Central Government which should chalk out campaign strategies and prepare effective messages for propagation. The Press Information Bureau of the Central Government should cull out all reported incidents of ragging and forward the same to the MHRD / UGC for monitoring – the fact that the Committee had to depend on the assistance provided by Non Government Organizations for documentation in regard to the reported incidents of ragging over the years, points to the absence of any centralized mechanism to monitor such incidents in an authentic manner.
- 5.38** Non Government initiatives in anti-ragging movement need to be supported in order to bring about qualitative improvement and efficient outcomes. The Committee recommends that the Government of India, and State Governments support such organizations to widen and intensify their activities. They could be helped to launch awareness programmes either on their own or in collaboration with the media related efforts of the Central or State Governments. Such efforts by the civil society may encourage parents and other well-wishers of ‘freshers’ to exercise various rights including the Right to Information for ascertaining the real situation in our campuses.
- 5.39** Similarly, the Directorates of Information and Public Relations of State Governments should ensure that there is widest possible publicity to anti-

ragging measures adopted in each State or what is prescribed under national guidelines. In States with anti-ragging laws in place, the responsibility of enforcement also lies squarely with the State Governments, including the responsibility to make rules under the Act. There is a larger reason for launching a sustained media campaign to sensitize the public, with less than 10% of the population in the relevant age group of 18 years to 23 years enrolled in all sectors of higher education, due to the low access to higher education, even less in professional colleges, lower still in hostels, the public at large being too distanced from the problems that beset higher educational campuses. The problem of ragging may therefore seem too exclusive to most and too remote to happen to oneself – precisely why it needs to occupy centre stage in public debates on higher education.

- 5.40** Yet another role of the Central Government, through its agency for censoring and certifying films, would be to ensure that appropriate directives are in place so that films which have a deep impress on young minds do not eulogize ragging; we recommend that such directives should be issued by the Centre Board of Film Certification, similar to the instructions on alcoholism, smoking or in regard to vulgarity.
- 5.41** We also recommend that the policy in regard to migration of students from one university or institution to another whether in the same State or outside the State needs to be reviewed by the UGC and the appropriate statutory authorities. While victims of ragging would find it helpful to be ‘evacuated’ from a notorious institution, the misuse of such a facility by students trying to gain transfer to institutions of their choice, pretending to be victims of ragging can also not be ruled out. This issue needs to be approached with circumspection. Also, it is not necessary that the institution to which a student victim of ragging is migrated would be less trouble prone than the one being left behind. In any case there has to be a case to case approach based on the merit of each.
- 5.42** We recommend that the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) or other accrediting bodies should factor any incident of ragging while accrediting institutions in different grades. Thus an institution which has been unable to prevent ragging or where incidents of ragging do not abate should be given a negative rating appropriately so that its overall

grading is affected.

- 5.43** The committee recommends that at the national level, the UGC should fund a toll-free Helpline which could be accessed by students in distress owing to ragging related incidents. The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology should facilitate the establishment, infrastructure and operation of the proposed Helpline. Any distress message should be simultaneously relayed to the Head of the Institution, warden or officer of the Hostels, District authorities including the Superintendent of Police, and should be web-linked so as to be in the public domain simultaneously for the media and citizens to access it. A genuine message of distress from the victim of ragging should make it obligatory for the Head of the institution and civil authorities to initiate action on the lines already suggested by us.
- 5.44** Timely communication being the key to attending to distress signals from victims of ragging, we recommend that access to mobile phones as well public phones should be unrestricted in hostels and campuses with reasonable restrictions on the use of mobile phones in class rooms or other prohibited places in the Campus through the use of technology (using jammers) rather than banning the use of cell phones by students. If necessary the UGC or the universities/institutions should issue appropriate instructions in this regard.
- 5.45** The Committee recommends that rather than subjecting each incident of ragging to a different penal treatment under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, a new section should be added to the IPC, making ragging a punishable offence on the analogy of section 498A dealing with cruelty towards women (against dowry related incidents). We have already explained that ragging is an offence with a multiplicity of ingredients, each of which constitutes an offence punishable under the existing provisions of the Indian Penal Code. We further recommend that the Indian Evidence Act should also be suitably amended on the analogy of section 113A of that Act, to shift the burden of proof on those accused of ragging.
- 5.46** We recommend that a comprehensive definition should be included by way of explanation in the proposed new section on ragging in the IPC, and all the punishable ingredients namely, abetment to ragging, criminal

conspiracy to rag, unlawful assembly and rioting while ragging, public nuisance created during ragging, violation of decency and morals through ragging, injury to body, causing hurt or grievous hurt, wrongful restraint, wrongful confinement, use of criminal force, assault as well as sexual offences or even unnatural offences, extortion, criminal trespass, offences against property, criminal intimidation and attempts to commit any or all of the above mentioned offences against the victim should be incorporated thereto, prescribing appropriate punishments in respect of one or a group of offences.

5.47 The Committee believes that there can not be a half way house in dealing with the menace of ragging. Mild and soft approach to ragging, even though required, has clearly not worked so far in curbing the menace. For example, punishments in the form of cancellation of admission, suspension from attending the classes, withholding/withdrawing scholarships, fellowship and other benefits, individual or collective fines, debarring from appearing in any test/examination and other evaluation process, withholding results, debarring from representing the institution in any national and international meet, tournament, youth festival, etc, suspension/expulsion from the hostel, rustication from the institution for periods varying from one or more semesters, expulsion from the institution and consequent debarring from admission to any other institution – all exist. The existing punishments can not be substitutes for the penal provisions of law, but only in addition to the punishments that must be handed out under the Indian Penal Code. We see no reason why enrolment in an institution or an academic programme should immunize perpetrators of heinous crimes which otherwise attract the penal provisions of law if committed by an adult citizen outside the academic precincts. Our message to the academic community is to ensure good governance which will respect human dignity by all concerned. It would indeed be sad if the penal provisions of law were to be used as a matter of routine to enforce deterrence in campuses.

5.48 Times have changed since the Hon'ble Supreme Court's caution of treating those indulging in ragging not as criminals and advising restraint in the use of the police force. While the intervention and presence of police in campuses is to be avoided normally, considering the alarming proportions the severity of ragging has grown to, we recommend that even as every

possible measure to prevent ragging is taken on the lines recommended by us in the preceding paragraphs of this Chapter and such action is taken at every level – that of Schools, Institutions, Districts, Universities, States and finally at the national level – even as every possible strategy should be adopted to sensitize the public against the evils and ills of ragging through the use of the media and the civil society at each of the levels described by us; the time has come to treat every single incident of ragging, however isolated or “mild” or “positive” it may appear, with the heaviest hand possible. In support of our argument we could come across no judicial pronouncement better than the one in the matter of Thiruvananthapuram Government Engineering College Vs State of Kerala [WP (C) 656 of 1998; 2000 (2) KLT 11] in which Arijit Pasayat, CJ (as his Lordship then was) writing for a division bench of the High Court of Kerala held;

“..What was intended to be in good faith and provide untainted fun is now characterized as physical torture with a sadistic tendency and sexual perversions. There are few reported cases of loss of life also. One thing is clear that ragging, which was originally thought of to be a mere joke, has crossed bounds of decency and had entered the arena of physical and mental torture. It needs to be dealt with iron hands..”

5.49 We recommend that the punishment to be meted out has to be exemplary and justifiably harsh to act as a deterrance against recurrence of such incidents. We therefore recommend that every single incident of ragging, where the victim or his parent/guardian or the Head of institution is not satisfied with the institutional arrangement for action a First Information Report must be filed compulsorily by the institutional authority with the local police authorities. We believe that the institutional authorities would become aware of such incidents through one of the many channels already identified by us – the anti-ragging squads, anti-ragging committees, mentoring cells, distress calls redirected by the Help Line, by NGOs, by the media and so on. Any failure or negligence or deliberate delay on the part of the institutional authority (comprising of the Head of Institution, the Warden etc.) to file an FIR with the local police, on the dissatisfaction of the victim with the institutional redress mechanism or suo motu by the Head of institution, should render the negligence culpable. Needless to add that every victim or his parent/guardian of ragging can also file an FIR

directly with the police, but failure on the part of the victim to do so should not justify the delay, or neglect or failure on the part of the institutional authorities.

5.50 We recommend that the Criminal Procedure Code should be amended to ensure that cases involving ragging are tried on the fast-track so that there are no delays in dealing with such matters, keeping in mind the academic priorities of students who may be required to depose before the courts to assist the prosecution while the matter is sub judice.

ANNEXURE - I

F. No. 9-98/2006.U-5
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Higher Education

New Delhi dated 5th December 2006

Sub: Constitution of Committee to look into the issue of ragging and suggest means of prevention in educational institutions.

Whereas the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in a Special Leave Petition No. 24295 of 2006 in the matter of University of Kerala Vs the Council of Principals of colleges on 27th November 2006 directed the Constitution of the Committee consisting of persons mentioned in the order of the Hon'ble Court and has also directed the Committee to nominate two other members to the said Committee. The Central Government hereby constitutes and notifies the Committee consisting of the following persons to give suggestions on means of prevention of ragging in educational institutions.

S.No.	Name and Disignation	Position
1.	Shri R.K. Raghavan Former Director, CBI. Sri Ramaswamy Street, Old No.3, Nepery, Near Ewart School, Chennai – 7	Chairman
2.	Prof. Sanjay Govind Dhande Director, IIT, Kanpur – 208016	Member
3.	Dr. A.K. Agarwal Dean, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi – 110007	-do-
4.	Dr Rajendra Prasad Principal, Ramjas College New Delhi	-do-
5.	Member from Chennai.	
6.	Member from Mumbai	

7. **Shri Sunil Kumar**
Joint Secretary
Department of Higher Education

Member- Secretary

2. **The terms of reference of the Committee would be to see:**

- (a) **The various aspects of ragging.**
- (b) **Means and methods of prevention of ragging.**
- (c) **Possible action that can be taken against persons indulging in ragging and**
- (d) **Possible action that can be taken against college/university authorities in the event of ragging.**

3. **Smt. Anupama Bhatanagar, Director in the Department of Higher education would assist in the work relating to the Committee. The secretarial assistance, logistic arrangement and other expenditure would be met out of the budget of the Department of Higher Education.**

4. **The Committee shall submit its report by 5th April 2007.**

-Sd-
(Anupama Bhatnagar)
Director

Copy to

1. **The Chairman, and all the members of the Committee.**
2. **The Additional Solicitor General of India, Supreme Court of India w.r.t. their letter dated 27th November 2006.**
3. **PS to HRM**
4. **Sr. PPS to ES.**
5. **PS to JS (FA), HRD.**
6. **PPS to JS (HE)**
7. **Guard File.**

ANNEXURE II

Final composition of the Committee constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to look into the issue of ragging and suggest means of prevention in educational institutions.

- | | | |
|----|--|-------------------|
| 1. | Dr. R.K.Raghavan,
Former Director, CBI | Chairman |
| 2. | Prof. Sanjay Govind Dhande,
Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur | Member |
| 3. | Prof. A.K.Agarwal,
Dean, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi | -do- |
| 4. | Dr. Rajendra Prasad,
Principal, Ramjas College, New Delhi | -do- |
| 5. | Dr. Chandra Krishnamurthy
Vice-Chancellor,
SNDT Women's University
Mumbai | -do- |
| 6. | Prof. S. Sathikh,
Former Vice-Chancellor
Madras University,
Chennai | -do- |
| 7. | Shri Sunil Kumar,
Joint Secretary, Ministry of HRD,
Government of India, New Delhi | Member - Convener |

ANNEXURE III

Notes on the interactions of the Committee with various stake-holders:

The Committee met for the first time on the 30th Dec.2006 at New Delhi. Dr. R.K. Raghavan, Chairperson designated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court gave a brief outline of the purpose of Constituting the Committee by the Court. He described prevailing situation in educational institutions, the emerging issues and challenges and the ways and means to curb the practice of ragging. The invited speakers and members of the Committee deliberated at length on various issues involved. The views expressed by the participants are summarized below:

Dr. Aruna Broota, formerly of the Department of Psychology, University of Delhi, Delhi spoke about the need to understand the psychological underpinnings of ragging. She stated that while there were more than fifty students in a hostel and more than a thousand in an institution, all did not indulge in ragging. It is only a core group of students who are bullies and have severe personality disorders and are a terror in the hostel or the class in the college/institution. Such students have to be identified and referred to professional psychologists, the Head of the Institution and the appropriate committee to enquire into such incidents. Prof. Broota recommended that all students who seek admission should go through mental-health checkup; that checkup must be intensified at the stage of class XI, which was the time when the anxiety relating to one public Board examination (class X) gets over and students are at the peak of physiological transformation and bodily development. Their physical size reaches almost that of an adult, and they start resisting authority and parents do not know how to handle the situation. Prof. Broota recommended that all students of Class XI must undergo six monthly mental health check-up, which would not only help identify aggression, hostility, anger and anxiety; but would also help underachievers to perform better. It will help in a better personality growth of each child. Prof. Broota pointed out that schools give out only a stereotyped character certificate to students at the time of leaving school after the XIIth grade; which should be converted into a personality assessment certificate and the assessment of character should only be a part thereof.

Prof. M.A. Khader, Head, Curriculum Group, National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi looked at ragging as a behavioral problem

occurring in higher education institutions, particularly in institutions of professional education. He is of the view that the act of ragging is deeply rooted in emotional content, dominated by aggression with a touch of sadism. Invariably, according to Prof. Khader, this form of behaviour took place in a crowd, which provides for anonymity. Often the victim declines to identify the offender due to perception of threat or anticipated future consequences. In educational parlance, ragging is a group action and the consequences are multiple and the issues involved are complex. In fact, the issues stemming from ragging are essentially linked to discipline in the higher education system. The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 which covers the school sector of education obviously does not reflect on ragging but speaks of discipline from the perspective of participatory management. Forms of discipline such as corporal punishment, verbal and non-verbal abuse etc. continue to feature in our educational system. Teachers and even parents unaware of the immediate and long-term detriment effects of such practices still believe that such punishment is important. He called for evolving systems of participatory management of student behaviour involving students and teachers within each institution and setting codes for self-governance. Advocacy programmes focusing on the ill effects of ragging involving important personalities/public figures in each campus could, according to him, be considered along with measures such as the provision of guidance and counselling services within each institution, creating a forum for healthy interaction between 'freshers' and seniors (e.g. Talents Day) and holding 'freshers' day within a month of the commencement of the course. Prof. Khader also drew attention to the observation that very often, once children were admitted to a course of study in a residential campus, parents were guided by the notion that the responsibility of their ward's conduct rested with the wardens or the college authority; forgetting that in reality it was a collective responsibility with parents/guardians being integral to it. He suggested a suitable mechanism whereby active involvement of parents and interaction with teachers could be ensured. He was of the opinion that a law against ragging could be enacted, however it was difficult to support witnesses or police the student community; and any such law ought to factor in the ground realities.

M/s Sachin Agarwal and Shivam Vij from the SPACE (Society for People's

Action, Change and Enforcement) made an elaborate presentation. Since May 2004, SPACE has been working on an advocacy & research campaign to curb ragging. The campaign has largely been conducted over the internet but also consisted of on-ground interaction with students in hostels across the country. According to the SPACE, Supreme Court's order asks educational institutions to generate an "atmosphere of discipline by sending a clear message that no act of ragging shall be tolerated and any act of ragging shall not go unnoticed and unpunished". Thus, these words of the Supreme Court of India seem to imply a zero-tolerance approach but students and college administration alike use words like 'mild-ragging' and have found alternative words such as 'interaction' and "introduction" to justify the continuance of the practice. SPACE suggested that a law against ragging enacted by Parliament and made uniformly applicable in each and every education institution of the country would go a long way. The Society also suggested the need for establishing one or more full-time 'anti-ragging cells' at the central level. This may take the form of an independent authority or may be part of such institutions such as the UGC/AICTE/ other affiliating authorities, HRD Ministry or the National Human Rights Commission. One function of any such anti-ragging cell would be to act as a 'Helpline'. Complaints against ragging should be received by such a cell from across the country via post or email. It was pointed out to the Committee by SPACE that the Directorate of Medical Education in Andhra Pradesh had successfully tried a web-format, where ragging victims file their complaints. If a victim is particularly disturbed, the cell could quietly arrange for counselling the victim. Such a cell would, however, have to be sensitive to the victim's desire for anonymity so that the victim does not run the risk of ostracisation from the campus community. However, if the complainant explicitly demands an inquiry in a particular ragging incident, files an FIR, takes legal action, etc., s/he would obviously not ask for anonymity. In respect of anonymous complaints, an enquiry targeting particular seniors may not be fair as such a complaint could be fake or motivated by extraneous complaints therefore, such a cell should undertake independent investigations as to the prevalence of ragging in that institution. It may thereafter recommend action against such institutions to the UGC/AICTE/other affiliating bodies. According to SPACE, the proposed Cells could put in place a monitoring mechanism to enforce compliance with the Supreme Court's guidelines and the relevant applicable laws. Each education institution should present to the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and the National Board of Accreditation (NBA), as the case may be, an annual report about the compliance about the status of ragging in their institutions, including

the number and nature of ragging complaints received, and how they were handled and solved. Bodies like the NAAC of the University Grants Commission and the NBA of the All India Council of Technical Education should take into account the status of ragging in educational institutions before awarding ratings.

Ms. Ragini Naik, President, Delhi University Students Union, felt that ragging was a prevalent norm. It systematized Human Rights' abuse, which has become something of a tradition and a self-perpetuating vicious cycle. She also felt that more and more redress methods were required to help the victims of ragging. Anti-ragging squads shall play proactive roll to curb incidents of ragging. Interactive sessions with freshers and seniors are likely to attend this issue.

Prof. Sanjay Govind Dhande, Director, IIT, Kanpur and Member of the Committee was of the opinion that ragging cannot be prevented without the proactive involvement of the faculty. He advised that an 'anti-ragging' advertising campaign may be launched. A 24- hours' 'Helpline' may be set up for providing necessary support to the victims of ragging.

The meeting proceeded to nominate two additional Members as directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. After discussions the names of Prof. Chandra Krishnamurthi, Vice Chancellor, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai and Prof. Sathik, former Vice Chancellor, Madras University were agreed upon and it was decided to seek their consent and also to invite them along with the other Members for the meeting of the Committee scheduled for Guwahati for the North East. Other venues and dates were also discussed. It was also decided to prepare a web-page for soliciting comments and suggestions as also to give wider publicity to the same. It was also decided to write to States and to publicize the visits of the Committee as per its approved programme so that the Committee could interact with a wide cross-section of stake holders.

2. Venue : Guwahati

Present : All Members except Prof Dhande who was given leave of absence owing to other prior commitments.

After Opening remarks by the Chairman and introductions by the Member-Convener the assembled participants were invited to offer suggestions.

Prof Goswami, Dean, College of Vet. Sc., Assam Agriculture University, Khanapara:- Do not know the details of the State Act (Assam). But university has procedures in place. Making newcomers feel welcome. Free of ragging for the last 6-7 years. General circular is sent out informing that there is a ban on ragging. Staff addresses students. Dean addresses students union. Committee for promotion of interaction between students and new comers. This committee if strengthened can prevent ragging – students must feel responsible for preventing ragging. Also a Vigilance Committee includes warden, squads made. Hostel guidelines. Teacher advisor assigned with newcomers and linked with the cohort. Academic regulations exist – expulsion or rustication for a minimum of two semesters.

Rintudatta Bora – student – Cotton college : incidents of ragging declining due to competition. Mere introductions should not be branded as ragging. Every society has a manner of interaction. There is an antiragging committee in the College. There should be an officer in the state government to look into problems of ragging and one designated in each institution. Students are more busy in preparing for careers in Cotton College.

Gautimi Saikia – Handique Girls' College : Secretary : There is no serious ragging. Only mild teasing in the college ; seniors show off their seniority; there should be orientation courses.

Shri Mahananda Bodo : Arya Vidyapeeth College : Mangal Doi College where Seniors used to ask embarrassing questions some three years ago. This went on for two years. He was so scared that he did not wish to attend classes. This did not have a caste or tribal bias, this was just the tradition there of harsh ragging.

Dr Rajendra Prasad : cant believe that there is no ragging.

Dr Goswami: one reason is that there are very few students that is why there is no ragging. We should allow some degree of fun and interaction with seniors.

Joiam Aku : Arunachal Pradesh : Two years ago was admitted to the hostel. Had many apprehensions. Had khujili dance. My seniors liked me. I also liked to mix with seniors. We must interact with the seniors. It depends on each junior how they take the ragging done.

Arihant Goswami: KCDas Commerce College: There have been no cases of ragging. We have a stage ragging in the presence of teachers, where questions are asked. Ragging is very inappropriate, morally very bad. There are other ways than ragging to get to know your seniors. Co-educational college.

Dr RK Pathak: ex hostel warden for 4 years. Guwahati Commerce College. Observed changes in ragging over the years. It is a social problem. KCDas college has no hostel. Ragging takes place at midnight. None can detect. Superintendent can not be a watch dog. At our time ragging was fun, now extortion and use of force. It should be taken from the points of view of parents – students and administration. Parents of students who take part in ragging must be told of their responsibility. Student representatives in hostels must be given the responsibility. Ragging is very painful. Expulsions have led to fewer students in hostels over the years. Interaction between seniors and juniors should be helpful but taking money from juniors, clothes, other luggage, force, canteen payments for seniors, sexual abuse. All teachers and others must be made aware of the law, simply having a law may not work. Change in the mental attitude among all three pillars of higher education is critical.

Dr S.Sarkar: Vice Principal : Guwahati Commerce College: Either at the state level or at the district level there should be an officer in charge for ragging related matters. My own brother was physically tortured. We are not aware of the ragging prevention law of the state. If the teachers can morally develop students. Moral science courses should inculcate awareness against ragging at the school level.

Dr AC Talukdar: Arya Vidyapeeth College: Principal: Ex student of Cotton College, a hosteler and was also superintendent of hostel in the AVC. Have been ragged as a hosteler and have curbed ragging as a warden. Ragging is imposed on poor rural students by the urban students who think they are smart. No one has a right to imposed their will on others. Mental harm caused to students is more dangerous than physical harm. We have formed counseling cell – identify and work on the “smart” ones. Throwing out an student is the last resort and signal a failure on the part of the administration.

Dr. Dinesh Vaishya: B. Barua College: principal: have been teacher for 30 years in the same college. Most of my students I thought were serious and good, but after joining as principal I have discovered that a good percentage of my

students and students in other colleges of Guwahati as well are addicted to drugs. It is a miniscule minority of 2-3% students who create problems. Even injurious weapons are used in ragging in some cases. I cannot expel all the students who create problems. Even guardians and authorities are helpless. There should be regular psychological counseling in each college not only to attend to ragging but a number of other social psychological problems. There should be a provision for counseling cells – UGC or governments should provide for them.

Mr. Ravinder Kumar: Father of a student of Dr BR Ambedkar NIT Jullandhar: and four parents of some students who were expelled from the said NIT. One of the parents is a teacher of the KV Guwahati. Institutions responsible for the behaviour of students. (written statement given by these parents). So called ragging which is yet to be proved. 11th October, 2005. This is an important case study for the committee. 10 students were put behind bar, including a girl student. 16th October, 2005 : Star News had whipped up public sentiments. Veer Zara music used, chain sms was used. The whole file will be put up to the Committee. False news was telecast by the media, said that these 10 students were absconding – whereas they had been arrested from their rooms. Innocent students should not be implicated – that is the counterpoint in ragging incidents. The case is before Supreme Court. Till proved guilty, educational access should not be denied to those students who are charged. Fast track courts for such cases. Students should not be put along with criminals in jails, this would protect such students who had been successful students. What about the duty of authorities, what about the accountability of wardens. The child who had died also used to tell his parents (Amit Gangwar's parents) about ragging – wasn't it their responsibility also.

Dr Adithi Maithi : Vice Principal : Handique Girls' College: A meeting the nature of today's meeting should be held at the level of different colleges. Introductory events cannot be called ragging – I was a hosteller at Cotton College and was also warden and monitor. Preliminary self introduction events should not be taken amiss. Some students are nervous, it is good to have some such event. Drug addiction is becoming rampant – drug awareness programmes have proved to be useful in our institution. Therefore what is required is to create awareness among students.

SC Ray: Deputy Secretary, UGC: Role of the UGC – funds are being provided for organizing seminars and conferences – Principals should take advantage of the

scheme. Have had personal experience of being subjected to ragging - Show of power by seniors. Suggestion would be that institutions should as early as possible organize open stage programmes for bringing together seniors and juniors. There is no point in blaming students or their parents – it is necessary to look at the background – school level.

Siddharta Jyoti Das: Assam Engineering Institute polytechnic: Office Bearer: earlier at Pragjyotis College where had a Mixed experience of ragging. Administrative heads should own the responsibility and should keep things under control because ragging invariably degenerates. Even at the time of admission, outsiders and seniors come and extort money even on the day of admission. Students are taken outside the classroom and beaten up. Sometimes students have to leave school and administrative authorities are lax. Since the Principal takes a lot of interest.

Prof. Saathik: is there a system of putting

Dr PK Goswami: Director Technical Education: this year the Principal of Assam Engg. College has rusticated students for ragging. Nobody should be denied the opportunity to study with an undertaking that they behave well.

Indrani Gogoi: Guwahati Commerce College: Secretary, College Debating Society: Introduction is healthy and should be encouraged. But harmful ragging is seen in hostels and outside the college campus. Former students extort. Make “freshers” dance on the foot path. Ragging should not be banned only harmful ragging should be banned. One would feel bad if one is not ragged. Action should be taken against culprits. Student Unions can play an important role in curbing ragging.

Prabhat Meiti: Students General secretary: College of Vet. Sc.: Ragging is a disease among the students community which is passed on from seniors to juniors and so on. There should be extracurricular activities to keep students engaged. There is no ragging in our college. The Union is very strict. The first general meeting is an occasion to induct the juniors to the institutional culture. Union must take the initiative.

Dr. Gautam Baruah: Director, IIT Guwahati: It is easier to solve technical problems but ragging is a frustrating phenomenon. While it has not taken a

serious turn in the IIT G, but it is there. Some form of deterrence is also important. A strong law as a deterrence must be in place so that the society takes note of. Ragging is thought of as fun, but the seriousness must be emphasized.

Chairperson: closing remarks.

Committee met at Guwahati Airport and discussed the draft skeletal report.

Meeting of the Committee on the 12th February, 2006 : Bhopal, Hotel Lake View Ashok

Present : Shri Raghavan, Chairperson; Prof. Saathik, Dr. Arun Agrawal, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Prof. Chandra Krishna Murthy, Sunil Kumar (Member-Convener)

On behalf of the Government of Madhya Pradesh, a presentation was made by the Higher Education Department, which mentioned that there was a policy of zero –tolerance towards ragging in the State. Several steps have been taken by the Government in this direction :

From the stage of advertisement itself steps are taken and wide publicity is given, application form in institutions has a printed undertaking that the candidate is aware of the ban on ragging and is aware of the punishment, a similar undertaking is taken from the parent, a Proctorial Committee includes wardens, faculty members and a few senior students, responsibility is fixed on hostel and institution authorities, security personnel are posted at sensitive places.

MP Human Rights Commission, Chairperson Justice NS Azad, has taken up the problem of ragging as a Human Rights violation.

Mr. Dilip Mehra – Principal Secretary - Statistics : 240 institutions of professional education, in the last 4-5 years about half a dozen of students and like number of incidents have taken place, expulsions have been resorted to. There is no state law on the subject, rather than each State enacting legislation, it

may be better that a Central law is made for uniform application.

Prof. P.B.Sharma, VC Rajiv Gandhi Technical University – why is there no ragging in foreign countries; zero tolerance is an absolute must, discipline has to be maintained from within the institution, a very vigilant management, teachers have a very important role. The dimension of the problem is very different from the past – the campuses are becoming very small, day scholars more, vigilance of teachers has declined, most serious cases of late are emerging from private hostels, off-campus ragging is a very serious problem; societal and parental pressure is more these days, apart from the institutional pressure; in any legislation empower institutions and create mechanism and institutions to control it, Hon'ble Supreme Court's orders already exist, success in Delhi College of Engineering was due to the quick reflexes and proctorial committees came in action and prompt action was taken; set up Help Lines for quick response at the university level; use the Media to create a fear of action and consequences; Raggers have been let off by Courts in the past and students have returned after expulsion. Registration of private hostels, wardens of private hostels are untrained and very often have nothing to do with the institution. Ragging in Metros, Delhi University Specials. Students are not criminals.

Prof Sirohi, VC Barkatullah University, Bhopal – general information is given to students, punitive action has to be taken immediately, IIT Delhi experience – teachers were protecting students; debarring from classes for a semester, expulsion, teachers did not agree to suggestion to mention in the degree certificate about the ragging incidents involving a student who rags, it is extremely difficult to control ragging in private hostels, let us acknowledge that wherever there is group living, some differences are bound to be there however a line needs to be drawn when human rights' violation takes place.

Chairperson raised the issue whether it was easier to control when incidents take place outside where police can take action. VC Technical University mentioned that policing regularly may help and the information of hostels should be known to the police and the institutions.

Prof Sirohi: senior students should be utilized to control ragging.

Students at institutions in Delhi attract students of different backgrounds and therefore getting to know takes some time and therefore there is some 'ragging'.

S. Satyam – Secretary, Medical Education : Ragging does take place, but resolution mechanism gets activated; anti-ragging committees in every campus, withdrawal of complaints, lack of evidence, career consciousness on both sides, hesitation to report to the police authorities – there are incidents of Dean and other authorities complaining to the police but students have withdrawn complaints; punitive action suffers or is low owing to all the above reasons,

Sanjay Rana; IG Gwalior earlier, Home Department: students ragged at places of residence, juniors were being called to places of residence of seniors and these places were not notified, only notified places should be allowed to let students reside outside the campus; unless IPC itself defines ragging and prescribe punishment, Gwalior had a Help Line.

Prof SK Shrivastava, Dean Agriculture College, Sehore: Only half a dozen stray cases have been reported, all precautionary measures are in place but the problem is more outside the campuses; whenever cases come to the notice of the committees the affected students themselves do not report or confirm the incidents; some strengthening of infrastructure should also help so that if 100% residential facility is made available – separate hostels for ‘freshers’.

Prof Sharma, former Principal of Jabalpur Engg. College : sensitizing people through the media, through films or other means must be adopted, human chains, rallies and campaign at the beginning of the session should be conducted on the lines of the pulse polio campaign. Ragging be defined very specifically – whether what takes place outside should also be considered as ragging and the institution is held at fault – in the existing law something should be done – there should be a separate ordinance of the university empowering the heads of institutions to take action in instances of ragging. Put up all details of students on the website so that if there is an incident of ragging even police would know everything about the students who are involved.

Prof. Shrivastava, Dean, Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal – the ragged becomes the ragger; a parallel to the anti-dowry laws where daughters in law become mothers in law. Ragging by senior or ragging of seniors of other juniors not necessarily those who are ‘freshers’. Have tried out comradeship activity, escort duties for ‘freshers’, get togethers etc. and also punishment; some budgetary provisions should be made for socials etc. and also for sensitizing

sessions. A number of steps have been taken and also more can be done (write up handed over by the Dean)

Dr Sanjay Tiwari, Registrar, Barkatullah University: Steps required to prevent ragging outside campuses – one way is to identify the compulsive /professional ragers and putting up their names on the websites. So called Student leaders give their backing to ragers and their followers rag juniors. Student leaders create problems often in order to pretend to give patronage and protection to make them their supporters – “freshers” fall for this trick.

Registrar, Jabalpur University : all private places of residence outside the campus must be registered and surprise checks and inspections.

Deepa Pandey, Warden, Prabhavati Hostel, Kamla Raje Womens’ College, Gwalior: there are anti-ragging committees both at the hostels and in colleges, wardens should be a specialized cadre and these are specialized functions and merely giving teachers additional duties would not help;

Dr Maya Ingle, Dean, Students Welfare, Indore University: Wardens and Matrons are specialized functionaries and therefore making reluctant teachers as wardens is not good.

Dr HK Khera, In charge Director NIT, MACT, Bhopal: there is a cosmopolitan mix of students in the institute; organize an orientation programme for one week, this serves as a familiarization programme of the city and the campus in order to build their confidence, the telephone numbers of teachers etc is given, “freshers” have a separate hostel, watch and ward staff is alert and two faculty members are present with the “freshers” during lunch hours at the institute and two members are present in the evenings at the hostel, STD facility and essential items are supplied in the hostel itself for about two or three months; the effort is to build confidence; anti-ragging committee and proctorial board which includes all the deans, wardens and proctors exist. Proctorial Board gives an opportunity before punishment – deduct marks, expulsion from hostel, from classes and rustication in extreme cases. Parents are regularly called for meeting with the faculty, undertaking is taken. While there are instances of ragging of day scholars but there is no evidence and it is difficult to get. Sometimes outsiders pretend to be students of the institute and rag ‘freshers’. Ragging is more or less eliminated.

Dr Manjit Singh, Chairman, Proctorial Committee, Bansal Institute of Science

& Technology: sometimes ragging takes place in buses also, have assigned faculty for the different localities in the city. Encourage people to report on ragging. There is a system of feed-back from parents also which is regular.

Prof Nirbhaya Shrivastava: Intra-regional ragging is prevalent. The segregation is between hostellers and the day scholars and not on the lines of caste or region.

Mr Sharma Registrar, Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur : police support is difficult to get they normally react that the matter should be handled by the proctorial committee.

Brig. Iqbal Siddiqui, Principal, Oriental Institute of Science & Technology: it is difficult to prove the cases of ragging as victims themselves do not press it, there may be references from influential persons to be mild on raggars. Raggars form pressure groups while authorities may like to adopt the path of least resistance.

Dr AP Dubey, Proctor, Sagar University: 80% of the incidents never get reported; no zero-tolerance policy would be ineffective unless all cases are reported. Without police support nothing is possible, they must assist us. Not agreeable to the suggestion that there should be separate cadre, teachers are respected by students and they alone can curb ragging. The anti-ragging committee must be reviewed regularly at least during the four months from July to October when ragging prevails.

Dr. Sarabjit Singh, Prof of Pharmacology, Warden, Medical College Hostel, Bhopal: Bazar duties for juniors, but this helps in building confidence for the juniors, there have been cases of physical abuse also.

RD Musalgaonkar, Registrar, Rewa University: The Ordinances of MP Universities do not mention anti-ragging provisions. There are political pressures.

Ramdev Bharadwaj, Dean Students Welfare, Jabalpur University: There are political pressures by outsiders as well and political groups of students indulge in ragging – raggars are protected against action by authorities. Students are called to cinema halls, coffee houses and other places and are ragged so the ambit of the

campus is limited.

Chairperson: is it true that there is a bias against rural students.

Ramdev Bharadwaj: not true in the university.

Col. Dixit, VNS Institute: but it is true for professional institutions. Very weak students are admitted to professional courses and they are not able to study or grasp so they while away their time and become wasters and are easily attracted to non-academic activities. Remedial action could be – introductory get together, social interaction between seniors and juniors, stringent punitive action, teachers have to be omnipresent, quality of the faculty is not up to the mark and therefore the guru-shishya sanctity of relationship is declining.

Chairperson: Who's failure has it been?

Col. Dixit: the Students are on their own as parents and teachers and everyone else is equally responsible.

Dr. Shailendra Sharma, DSW, Vikram University, Ujjain: In MP ragging is an offence; the problem has come down; Universities and institutions in Madhya Pradesh should also have proctorial powers and bodyguards and patrols like in some Central Universities and institutions. Innovative steps have been taken in our university – welcome party by the seniors, the delay in welcome parties should be held at the earliest so that ragging season does not prolong. Hostels have been divided in to UG, PG and Research categories. Campus is getting defused and extended.

Dr. Agrawal, Laxmi Narain Institute of Technology, Bhopal: There is no term like free classes in our college. Every teacher leaves the classroom only after the successor teacher enters the class for the next lecture. Institute has also staggered the timings of lunch, bus trips etc. and all “freshers” are on the same floor as the management authorities. Miscreants have been identified and have been made responsible for the prevention of ragging. “City senior” and “City junior” rag irrespective of the seniority in the college – particularly in regard to students from the Rewa region. Rowdyism vs Ragging – e.g. a 3rd year student rags a 2nd year student vs a senior rags a fresher. Purpose of ragging – money or other reasons, every institute has its own ragging culture. Jabalpur Engg College did

not have a practice of ragging till the 70s. It is a social problem. Involving parents, the media and society is important.

Dhirendra Singh, Warden, National Law University, Bhopal: Institute has developed a concept of “mentorship” – the course is a Trimester system, so there is very little idle time, a Personality Development Programme has been launched where seniors guide juniors. Vigilance has to be maintained even in eating places outside the campus.

Dr Kazim Reza Rahi, Dy. Registrar, Sagar University: There should be a system of registration of private hostels so that watch can be kept. The district administration is very cooperative and alert and this helps.

Prof Prakash Vibhute, Warden Post Graduate College, Dhar: The problem can not be solved without administrative powers to those who are made responsible for maintaining discipline.

Prof. Pandya, Warden, Gandhi Medical College Hostel, Bhopal: activities of NCC and sports and games should be increased.

Dr. OP Yadav, Warden, Govt. Indrajit Hostel, PG College, Badwani: Tribal areas have different set of problems. Those who have been ragged are more likely to rag the next batch of students. Political interference is rampant, MLAs and local politicians get involved when action is taken against the culprits. Open campus in small places, three types of hostels are there for tribals and others – outsiders find it easier to enter or go out even at night. There should be security and boundary walls in hostels. Former students camp at hostels, need to be vigilant and evict them from time to time. There should be separate arrangements for the “freshers” and the others. Students gang up against the teacher and principal taking action on the culprits.

Ms. Sugandh Bhatia: Student : Oriental Instt. Of S & T: Was very scared not of the entrance exam or the Board exam but of the prospect of being ragged in the college – the institute has a very good system in place – there are different timings for seniors and juniors.

Sakshi Sharma, 2nd year IT. Also from OIST, Bhopal: The institute provides books to the ‘freshers’, there is no ragging, there are separate blocks for the

juniors and the seniors.

Rajesh Kumar, OIST, 2nd year student – if only we could inculcate the feeling that someone who has been ragged would not rag or let ragging take place, it would be better for curbing the problem.

Sudip Mukherji, student OIST, ragging is resorted to by those who have been ragged before. The hot spots are labs and water tanks. In the institute seniors have no contact with juniors for the first three or four months. Ragging is outside the institutions at bus stops, and other places and it could be anywhere. The seniors come to the bus stop and give directions to pay visit – at places which could be anywhere. Due to the body language seniors can make out who the juniors are.

Sakshi: contact numbers of teachers and faculty authorities should be given.

Sugandh: Asking for introductions is not ragging. The introduction should take place after a month or so. Interaction in the presence of the faculty if held three or four days continuously would be very helpful. Ragging should be brought about in the value system; the mentality has to be changed at the schooling stage itself.

Neena Sharma: SFI representative – not a student: ragging is a serious trauma; an ambience should be created, sensitizing students is very important, teachers and deans are very well aware of the incidents but do not pay any attention; there should be timely intervention; student organizations should also launch campaigns in this respect; it has often been seen that the enmity developed during ragging leave long lasting bitterness; it is only students who are backed by managements who indulge in ragging; there should be anti-ragging committees in every district or even lower levels of administration;

Sharad Shukla: SFI representative – not a student: there three sets of players – the ones who are ragged, the ones who rag and those responsible for taking anti-ragging measures; ragging grows in intensity due to a mentality of revenge; merely making of laws will not solve the problem; it would become one more piece of legislation like the anti-dowry act; the problem is that those who are in favour of ragging are powerful and there should be encouragement for those who oppose the menace of ragging; those who constitute the anti-ragging committees

are themselves guilty of if not involvement at least of indifference so the effort has to be directed towards them as well; incidents of ragging in Gandhi Medical College were brought to the notice of the committees and other authorities and now those who complained are being proceeded against – there is no safety or protection; look at the system of allotment of seats in hostels in the Gandhi Medical colleges. Each hostel is a mixed hostel, where all seniorities are represented; why cant they have a hostel exclusively for the juniors for the first year at least; these suggestions have been made to the Dean in the last more than a year but no changes or modifications have taken place; unfortunately those who fight the social evil of ragging feel frustrated and give up; video evidence is available and have been made available to the authorities; but nothing has been done; there is one block which is reserved for those who belong to Vidisha because they are treated differentially as the Chief Minister is from that district. [he will make available material evidence on 14th]

Lekhansh Shukla: Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal: Management and authorities ignore the problem of ragging – it protects raggors and encourages ragging – have been fighting the menace in the various fora including the human rights commission – viva is not taken and the entire management and system becomes hostile – there should be an independent authority as we can not leave the issue to be left to the authorities who are bent on denying the existence of ragging. GR – group ragging; 3rd button eye level to be maintained; PR – Personal Ragging; Ear perforations have been reported but no action – AS US – Auxillary Shave and Under Shave;

Piyush Rai: Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal: -do-

Nisha Motiani: Government Polytechnic: there is ragging in our institute, in the name of general introduction; teachers have to explain the difference between interaction and ragging; so that mild introductions are not confused and complained against; there should be system which should make it a level playing field; the seniors dominate;

Purva Mishra: Government Women's Polytechnic: if the administration of the institution is alert then there would be no ragging;

Lekhansh Shukla: Legacy recall of ragging – minimizing the effects of present day ragging by the authorities.

Himanshu Vishwakarma: SG Polytechnic: on train ragging, seniors used to make juniors stand near the door on moving train; outsiders used to be engaged by the seniors to beat up or rag juniors so that they are not caught;

Naeem Khan: SG Polytechnic, Bhopal: Members of the Anti-ragging Committee are themselves involved in ragging at times; the main aim is to cow down and dominate the juniors, action should be immediate;

Kapil Kumar: SG Polytechnic, Bhopal: the first day in college is where only seniors are present even teachers are not present; the seniors expect the juniors to respect them; some times seniors taunt other seniors who are not shown proper respect by his juniors; this results in the senior interviewing the juniors and ragging; juniors also sometimes are responsible when the juniors try to insult the seniors and are not civil or proper in their behavior. We should not blame the seniors alone, they help the juniors in familiarizing the juniors with the institution and can be good guides to the juniors and are helpful to them.

Sugandh: No such law be framed which could be misused by the juniors; guard against false complaints against seniors by juniors;

Lekhansh Shukla: There should be some purely administrative posts in institutions so that an objective view is taken. Mass punishments should be inflicted so that the onus to prove individual guilty is not on the person ragged. The power is derived from the system which is then misused. The Post Graduates and the seniors are hand in glove.

Sharad Shukla: Majority of the membership of the anti-ragging committee should be of parents, police and outsiders such as NGOs rather than insiders so that the nexus cannot be broken.

Vishnu Dutt Sharma: All India General Secretary, ABVP: have studied in the Agriculture College Sehore; the environment in hostels should be improved; the personality of the warden and the prefects determines the effectiveness of efforts; laws alone cannot solve social problems but can be generally useful; there used to be very decent methods of interaction between seniors and juniors but the distortions are because there are no avenues for juniors and students generally for co-curricular activities; teachers are as important as the wardens; a good

teacher who care for the juniors can also deter attempts to rag; revive good co- and extra-curricular activities; it is the student organizations which bring out the incidents which otherwise get overlooked or swept under the carpet; unfortunately, institutional authorities underestimate the role of student political organizations and given the responsibility can be effective;

Lekhansh Shukla: Prevention is better than the cure. Punishment has to meted out which is demonstrative – e.g. asking the 2nd year students to wear uniform as punishment;

Sugandh: Hardly 5% of the students are compulsive raggers – they can be easily identified.

ABVP: Wardens ought to take interest in the studies of students. Wardens should be a separate cadre. SFI also supports this.

Meeting of the Committee at Mumbai – SNTD Womens' University – 13th February, 2007.

Chaiperson welcomed the participants. Dr. Dhande could not attend due to prior commitments.

2001 – guidelines – why haven't those worked. Stakeholders, how many feel it is really a problem. We would benefit. Frankness, personal experience, gained from the meetings in the past.

Dr Padmini, Prof. Of Education, Shivaji University, Parent: Child was frightened, ILS Law College, Pune, hostel, 3 years ago a child had survived only because of the Mobile phone or may have been killedcontact – had to counsel the child, sense of security had to be instilled, media reports of earlier incidents had added to the fear, institutions should take the lead in removing the fear and reassuring the students; although ragging has been banned in ILS and there have been no instances it is reported that the seniors take it out on the juniors on playgrounds.

Dr. Mohan Joshi, Professor of Surgery, warden students hostel, Lok Manya Tilak Medical College, Mumbai: mild ragging during his student days, psychological shock, took the help of an MLA to put in a word regarding clout, for

a year did not mix with seniors, suppression, a fellow student who had joined the IIT Powai who was badly ragged had to quit after a couple of days. The barriers have to be removed – rural/urban, vernacular/English speaking, caste/class etc. if we can ensure that such barriers are broken – the Medical College has set up Maitri an organization which provides local parenting by teachers, familiarizing; in the last three to four years there has been no ragging, juniors are living with dignity; heads of institutions have to held responsible; more interaction should take place in the university and in the institutions so that the problem is kept in sharp focus; instances of ragging in the form of physical abuse – drawing water to higher floors in hostels; socio-religious activities in hostels could keep students busy. Students from certain states are aggressive.

Bharat Pondkule, Student, Intern, Hostel Secretary, LMT Medical College: the minor incidents of ragging take place due to alcoholism and addiction.

Pragya Rathore, student, LMTMC, 3rd year: hostel is a co-ed hostel, was initially scared to even enter the hostel, seniors have been warm and there is a familial atmosphere, even for the boys there is no problem, there is some mild teasing;

Ritika Chhaucharia: 2nd Year, TN Medical College, Mumbai: there was little ragging everywhere, a little bit of ragging is necessary for everyone, used to cry in the beginning when ragged but after six months got very friendly with the seniors, used to ask us to dance, act and so on this is not ragging but only a way of interaction, ragging helps us develop a skill to interact with seniors.

Ruzpeh Raja: HR College Churchgate: proud to say there is zero ragging both in campus and off campus, students are recruited in the anti-ragging squads, there is patrolling from college to some distance, patrol spots like cigarette shops, there are squads to supervise the anti-ragging squads so that the latter do not misuse their position; these measures boost the confidence of the students and parents and teachers; planning to set up a help line for anti-ragging for the first few months of the academic session;

Akshay Waingankar: student: Government Dental College, Mumbai: there is a thin line between ragging and interaction, have been a victim of manhandled but compared to that there is no ragging it is very mild – asking for name, sharing a joke, we have anti-ragging squads, anti-ragging squads also rag.

Rohit Kumar, IIT Powai: there used to be incidents but now it is now near zero; there are student mentors, faculty touring hostels at nights to reassure students, “freshers” are not allowed out after 10 PM; there is strict penalty, a semester drop, there is an disciplinary action committee should take immediate action, penalty system should be in place, cost-benefits; A full ground floor has been given to juniors; the purpose should be not to reduce interaction but to reduce ragging; segregating does not help in bonding; promote interaction.

Dr Ashok Chakranarain, Pune University: committees are in place, but in Pune serious incidents have taken place; the anti-ragging Act of Maharashtra is effective; administration has to be effective, teachers should involve themselves more, potentially dangerous situation can be averted, alcoholism, drug abuse etc contribute to indiscipline, a full time warden is better,

Dr. Prisla Paul, HOD, Psychology, Mumbai University, Warden of Girls' Hostel: personally have been able to relate to students owing to counseling experience, initially get together, students are willing to come and share problems, vernacular students have problems of settling down and transition; warden-ship is an additional responsibility given to teachers; wardens should develop a more open communication channel with students,

Dhiraj Totala: Pune University, students: there is should be a proper induction in the 11th and 12th class in school so that students are exposed to the rights and duties and responsibility of students so that there is sensitization of students both to protest against ragging and also to caution them against ragging others;

Chitra Desai, MSW student, SNDDT WU: There is no ragging in the hostel, owing to the democratic system, there is a ‘freshers’ get together from day one, workshops and seminars help; staggered joining but when all have joined the interaction session at the ‘freshers’ get together;

Aditi Pandey, PG, Sociology, SNDDTWU: there is indirect ragging, against those who cannot speak in English;

AC Attar: Director, Students Hostel, Rajaram Bapu Instt. Of Tech., Shivaji University, Kolhapur: Separate hostel block for ‘freshers’, special tournaments for all students for interaction, to develop bondage; Committee of Rector, principal,

members of governing body, faculty visit the hostel regularly, there is no ragging even mild ones; access to rector's office and bachelor staff members stay in student hostels

Pallavi Bhokare: Jankidevi Bajaj Instt. Of Management Studies: day scholar student, even before enrolling the management had a facility to introduce students to the system in the institute; an interaction system, buddy system is in place;

Nalini Andrade: College of Social Work, student: Ragging builds rapport with seniors is a myth – there is a pressure to rag and there is a pressure to get ragged; acceptability among seniors only if you get ragged; ragging hardly gets reported, managements have vested interests, the poor students coming from rural areas hardly have a chance;

Dr. Seema Paliwal, Warden: ragging is a legacy handed down from generation through tradition; have personally caught students who were ragging, even though it is mild it is ragging if it causes trauma; there is a revenge theme as well if one has been ragged in the past; students have come and complained about vulgar questions being asked; “making juniors bold”; the main reason why cases go unreported is the fear of social boycott by the seniors and denial of help by the seniors in future, more interactive sessions in the presence of teachers; seniors make the juniors do their work, journals completed by juniors on behalf of seniors;

Rohit, Physio-therapy Intern from Somaiyya College: there has to be some interaction between seniors and juniors – add the term of interaction to the concept of ragging; institution sponsored interaction session in mild ragging

Garima Advani, TN Medical College: 1st year student, was ragged but very mildly, cried then but now when look back it was fun, seniors are so very helpful, those who were not ragged find it difficult to interact with seniors;

Manish Gavai, State Joint Secretary, NSUI: There is ragging in every institution; it may go by various names, but there is ragging; if the purpose of presence in the campuses is education then why should students rag; parents sacrifice a lot for sending their children to higher educational institutions, there is discrimination against the rural and poor students, there should be a campaign

to sensitize students and communities; the definition of ragging in the Maharashtra Act is wide and needs to be enforced; action against those responsible for ragging is at times stalled due to political interference; anti-ragging measures and steps should be published compulsorily in the prospectus; the social conditions are being reflected in the campuses; the western social values are being aped mindlessly; hostels should be mixed and no sections should be isolated; there should be rustication for ragging; social and economic justice and compensation for those ragged and who suffer due to ragging;

Sunil Kuyare: Warden, Boy's Hostel, GS Medical College, Mumbai: warden of hostel for the last two years "freshers" have a separate hostel, parents are allowed to stay for a couple of days with the students – feel reassured, seniors are not allowed in to the "freshers" hostel;

Anita Rawal: Joint Secretary, Students' Council, SNDT University: staggered joining time so that seniors are not around on the very first day that the juniors's first day;

Mira Vedpathak: Pune University, MA (Sanskrit): Pune University has no ragging it is only in the professional courses; why use the term "ragging" why not just call it "interaction"- there should be a central law not just a state law;

Parameshwar Hasbe: State Secretary, ABVP: Welcome the debate initiated by the Supreme Court; Sunil Shinde of Aurangabad Government Medical College was ragged in 1999; this was done at 2 AM; he did not go to the Dean or Warden but to the ABVP; the state law is a unique piece of legislation; implementation is weak; 2003 – when there was an incident in the ILS Law College; there is no security arrangement, there is some degree of severe ragging; seniors help juniors that is why interaction is welcomed; [written suggestions have been given to the committee by the ABVP] : involving senior students, appoint one teacher for every 10 students as local guardian so that problems can be shared; there should be disciplinary committees; student activities should be encouraged in the extra-curricular and co-curricular activities; utilize student energies; the state law does not provide for action against the institutions in the event of ragging; sensitization should be introduced.

[at the end of the meeting, it was felt by the assembly that ragging must be condemned, there should be a central law, heads of institutions should be held responsible and also at the same time empowered to take stringent action against

the culprits, there should be sensitization]

Mrs Iyer, In charge Ladies' Hostel, Pune University: No ragging because there is no professional course, scarcity of hostel capacity, there is a system of guests allowed to share rooms, this leads to some problems but does not result in extreme steps; those found guilty of ragging should not be admitted anywhere in India;

Ms. Vaishali Dhanvijay, Warden, Amravati University: there is no severe ragging; only some mild interaction; students are encouraged to come to the warden first, visit hostels frequently even at night;

Gopal Purohit: Joint Secretary, ABVP: police does not take immediate action against ragging;

Kamlesh Dube: Agriculture, North Maharashtra University: ragging is at night, rectors and wardens are not available, students should themselves be made responsible, the members of anti-ragging committee should be changed frequently;

The second session of the meeting was with faculty and administration of institutions.

MU Kharat, Anuradha Engg. College, Amravati: The definition of ragging in the Maharashtra Act is so wide that even looking at students could be termed and proceeded against as ragging. Focus should be given to the overall discipline in campuses – if all authorities are vigilant towards discipline in campuses, ragging could also be prevented.

Dr. M.N.Welling: College affiliated to the University of Mumbai: Representative of Principals; by making legislation nothing would happen, unless the message goes down to the students ragging can not be stopped. Social and psychological aspects must be addressed; students are more in to academics so there is no ragging in institution; students are kept involved in activities; a 'freshers' kit is prepared and involves seniors in giving information to juniors and a different value system is inculcated in students. [a copy of the 'kit' was handed over by Dr Welling] The legal and penal actions should be given publicity as widely as possible but the effort should be in making seniors and juniors jell together.

Dr. Venkatesh Raikar, Principal, KIT's college of Engineering, Kolhapur: Experience has been that in Karnataka, north Indian students ragged their other north Indian students, this happens in Maharashtra; the form of ragging is very mild; there is no regional variation in the ragging in the two states – has taught in both states in engineering colleges;

Dr Ashok Pawar, Director of Student Welfare, SRT University, Nanded: Ragging is more in professional courses; The post of DSW should be made permanent by the UGC so that student activities are increased in order to keep students occupied.

Dr. Tayde, Director of Medical Colleges, Maharashtra: Students are very busy in academics; instructions are issued to all colleges to constitute committees as per the state law on prevention of ragging. Counseling between senior students and junior students has been started and this has been proved to be very useful; the incidents are very few and have come down; mode of counseling has been tried out in all medical colleges, the state government conducts surprise visits to colleges to see whether instructions are carried out;

Rotarian **Rajesh Agrawal**: have been studying the problem of ragging; some of the reasons for the problem of ragging continuing is that students who rag are children of powerful people and feel that they can get away; there is administrative apathy, authorities do not readily acknowledge that ragging has taken place; ragging takes place even in bus-stands; Rotarians (district 310, Mumbai, 117 clubs) have planned to put up a web-site [Rotary Online Against Ragging] or ROAR – it is hoped that people who are concerned or affected would contribute to the web-pages. Serious complaints would be referred to a group consisting of retired vice chancellors and other senior citizens; use of media can be very useful in highlighting the concern and resolve against ragging.

Sushma Kulkarni, Principal, RIT, Shivaji University: a 22 year old college, zero ragging institution from the very first day of its establishment; around 1985-86 strict action was taken against miscreants and the tradition has stayed on; there is a separate block for the “freshers” and faculty has been assigned with them and ‘freshers’ interaction with seniors through get together;

Dr Ajay Deshmukh, Principal, KN College, Karanja Ladia, Washim District,

Amravati University: Ragging is the only problem which is real and exists; why should principals alone be held responsible for ragging when the campus owes it to all stake holders to keep such issues under check; ragging is there everywhere although it may be less or more in intensity; powers given to the heads of institution should be exercised by them; there are sufficient powers in the state Act of Maharashtra.

Prakash Gopalan: Dean of Students Welfare, IIT Powai: IIT has a mentoring programme, role models not only in academic arena but in many other matters in dramatics, play grounds and so on. There are 40 or so mentors spread across 13 hostels of IIT Powai; they are responsible for 15 “freshers” each, there is a mentor coordinator who is a faculty member and the coordinator reports to the DSW; The mentors have been made responsible and are the sounding boards, share of the burden must be placed on students so that they relate to their fellow students more effectively; a certificate is issued after a one year term to the mentors and they are taken very seriously; this practice has been in existence in the IIT for the last six years and not one incident has been reported;

Dr Vibhuti Patel, Director PGStudies and Research, SNDT: some types of incidents have been reported so far – one caste based (taunts like jhadu wala), one lesbian and gay incident, vernacs and day scholar vs hostels – in comparison Madhya Pradesh there is a campaign through posters and other publicity material where every student knows that ragging is a crime, this kind of a system should be adopted in Maharashtra also;

Dr Gulnar Sharma, Director, HR, Jankidevi Bajaj Institute of Management., SNDT: the institutional culture in SNDT is such that the juniors and the seniors interact from very first day; this seems to be a tradition in this institute; what could be the reason is not clear; in other places the interaction sessions are a formality; in SNDT they are left to each other so that they could get to know each other informally.

Dr. MS Adhale: Joint Director, Higher Education, Maharashtra: A campaign was launched in Maharashtra in 1999 and there are instructions to institutions to raise the general public awareness regularly although there is no state level campaign in an ongoing sense; the law has helped to curb ragging to some extent;

Dr. Ms. Kshirsagar:GS Medical College and KEM Hospital, Mumbai The

punishment for ragging is so severe that sometimes no one comes forward to complain; “but we don’t want to spoil the career”, very strict actions are expected by law; softening of the provisions of punishment; harsh punishment should be imposed only in the rarest of the rare instances and should not be imposed mechanistically in all cases; parents and faculty should be involved in grooming of students – a parent teacher association has been revived in the GS Medical College, pressures are too many and therefore all anti-ragging measures should not lose sight of the need to groom students in becoming good citizens; a receptor system : foster mother system : each senior is assigned to look after a junior in a kind of buddy system;

Rita Sonawat: Post Graduate Department Home Science: the admission procedure is very rigorous; seniors are involved in regulating the arrival of juniors, seniors are volunteers as invigilators, ‘freshers’ meets are used for the seniors to share their experiences; department level seniors share their field experiences;

Dr. Arun Adsool: Principal, Vidya Pratishthan, Baramati, University of Pune: concerned students are not aware of the repercussions of the act of ragging and even if they are then they do not care for the consequences; at the time of admissions parents are called and explained the consequences;

Dr. Prof. Kamal Singh, VC, Amravati University: the word “ragging” itself is not very encouraging; this is a feudal concept borrowed by the campuses from the ragging of the downtrodden; no serious event has taken place in Maharashtra after the State Act has come into force; seniors look forward to rag in order to get introduced and heads of institutions can curb it by calling meetings right in the beginning; a clear message has to go out to the seniors well before the arrival of the juniors that ragging would not be tolerated; the seniors have to be warned about the consequences;

Dr. Khan, Principal, Abeda Inamdar Girls’ College, Pune University: how come the “freshers” who are at the receiving end become raggers themselves even though they have been given all the protection in the first year; there are equal harassment by teachers also in professional programmes; Under Pune University there are Student Welfare Officers in each College, this is very helpful; the number of cases of ragging is very few in Pune University; there has to be an outlet for the energies latent in students.

Dr. Dighe: Registrar, University of Mumbai: ragging can not be prevented it has to be minimized; the magnitude of the problem is a serious one; staying in the hostels should be made compulsory in all professional courses;

Dr. ME Yeolekar, Dean, Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College & General Hospital, Sion, Mumbai

Meeting of the Committee at New Delhi : 14th February, 2007

All members were present at the meeting. The meeting began with a presentation by **Harsh Agrawal** [Varun Agrawal, Mohit Garg and Rajiv Ramachandran are the other members of the organization] of CURE which is a Non Government Organization with chapters in all major cities in India and also in smaller cities [for more details see www.noragging.com]

Focus is on demystifying ragging and to build social awareness. CURE started as a discussion forum on Yahoo in 2001. It receives 50-100 hits every day and its research work is on the website. It has anchored a show on the DD on ragging in 2003-04. CURE has a data base on ragging incidents over the last 10 years, on an entire range of modalities from mild teasing to physical and mental abuse. Sri Lanka is the worst affected by the menace of ragging.

Several myths about ragging are prevalent – that ragging makes the target bold; ragging helps the students break the ice with the seniors; that ragging is actually now very mild (there have been 25 deaths); that ragging is a healthy interaction; that ragging is an old ritual with social acceptance; vicious cycle because the ragged feel they have the right to rag their juniors; that the seniors would help only if they are allowed to rag; that it is not a social evil because it is not a social stigma at present so no one minds revealing that he or she has been ragged; there is an attempt to rationalize ragging by those who may have undergone ragging; media attempt to project only mild ragging also sends a wrong and misleading message about ragging; punishment is often mild and therefore the feeling is reinforced;

What are the possible solutions? CURE feels that the hard approach may not work, yet effective action by the institutional authorities is an absolute must. Students who are ragged often do not go to their parents immediately; visible

ragging in campuses has disappeared but lot of ragging incidents are taking place in the college hostels; warden and teachers must remain in close contact with students both “freshers” as well as seniors; among the softer methods – events need to be organized and opportunities for interaction between seniors and juniors; the second year students must be sensitized; chosen seniors should be made responsible for the care of “freshers” as mentors; nation-wide awareness against ragging must be built; victims must be given the option of changing institutions; funding for the research on ragging [no psychology deptt or sociology deptt has worked on ragging]; CURE would be using a poster for its campaign this year and a report would be submitted; ragging is more rampant in smaller cities and towns; earlier the south was more notorious now even UP and Bihar are getting known; both in intra community ragging as well as inter community; there is a class-based ragging aspect; rural bias as well as urban bias; suicide is often resorted to by students belonging to the economically poor background; irrespective of institutions; media under-reports; often because the victims do not complain; according to the archives of national news papers in English language, there are appx 150-200 cases involving more than 25 deaths in the last seven years.

The Committee asked the CBSE to clarify whether the Board has thought of introducing ethics and value education which includes sensitizing against ragging something on the lines of environment education which came about due to the intervention of the Apex Court; Secretary, CBSE clarified that value education was part of the curriculum in the CBSE/NCERT; speaking from his own personal experience he mentioned that students who rag are often those who are low on academic attainments and poor in studies;

Prof Dhande mentioned about the faculty coordinator and student coordinator or mentor on every six students; those who are very active in ragging is a minority and measures could be taken by the authorities to identify the potential ragers – and put them on the alert and take preventive and proactive measures;

Prof. Vedprakash, VC, NUEPA: build a robust institutional data base; list out precise activities or ground which are to be undertaken by institutions by concentrating not merely on the seniors but on the student body as a whole because the victims of today would be the perpetrators of tomorrow; institutions are in the habit of denial; convert their denial into action against the evil of ragging; institutionalize the forms of familiarization into mandatory activity for the authorities and faculties; bring about these activities into the curriculum in

the first few weeks not merely academics; persuasive methods need to be thought of; find alternative measures in sensitizing; policing is not going to work and institutions must own the effort; value system needs to be inculcated at the early stage;[each teacher is a mentor and not merely those who are so designated];

Mr. ON Singh, Commissioner, NVS: the NVS has engaged itself with reputed institutions in imparting value education; theoretical syllabus would not help so much as inculcating practical inputs in values;

Dr Nagpal, VIMHANS, New Delhi, Mental Health Expert: 14-18 years is the turning point in adulthood; success in class rooms would not be enough, life skills are equally or even more important; skills like empathy are important in the context of both ragging as well friendship; partnership of developing as a good citizen is somehow missing; advocate something which is contemporary; more than authorities taking the responsibility the effort should be to empower senior students to take charge to strengthen mutual respect and trust; have these skills imparted as activities rather than as extra classes which are burdensome; Gargi College and Kamala Nehru College in Delhi have some very good programmes in life coping skills and personality development; Even in the IITs [where Dr Nagpal is associated at Delhi in counseling sessions] ragging continues and there have been instances of abuse of forcing juniors to smoke for the first time ever in life; we are loosing the young persons who are precious human resource for the country; A practical step would be to start of a centre for counseling which could be like a friends' corner on the college campus; to ventilate or share the problems that are not being taken to the authority or needs to be coped with without authority's intervention; peer mentoring implies having regular programmes which allow space to mind and its coping ability; through competitive events self awareness and respect for each other can be encouraged as an integral part of celebration just as student festivals are celebrated; some institutions are organizing such events (Gargi College for e.g.) a Mental Health Mela which cover issues like ragging as well; Need to have guidelines on how people are meant to interact with each other in our campuses; juniors bringing in unruly behavior need to be disciplined – can not be called ragging; ragging is not a mental disorder;

Prof. Kamala Shankaran, ILI, New Delhi: there are many state laws which make it a tendency to criminalize and punishments are there; they do not give any lesser punishment; have also been one of the contributors to the Ordinance

against ragging in the Delhi University; there should be a range of options available when dealing with ragging; flexibility in dealing with the problem is required; there is institutional resistance to making committees as seen from the experiences of sexual harassment matters; like sexual harassment ragging is also a power issue to dominate the vulnerable; there should be an identifiable group of teachers and students who could be responsible for taking action against or in the event of ragging; institutions must advertise that it should be a zero tolerance zone; NAAC accreditation must go into the track record of institutions in preventing ragging and other socially undesirable incidents; avoid overlap with the functioning of other committees such as the sexual harassment committees; [gave the extract of Alpha Jose v. State of Kerala, 2006 (3) KLT 886, where suspension of a ragger was held to be bad because the victim had not complained while in College and had dropped out!].

Dr. Tanvir Aeijaz, Ramjas College, Delhi University: [written paper was submitted and excerpts read out]; civil society is not a homogenous society, power is negotiated, contested and bargained; educational institutions are at the core of the civil society movements; groups which are part of the larger interest groups wish to establish hegemony through ragging and consequent violence; victims are more often the weak and the marginalized; hence power relations within the institution must be changed; students must be made to take part in most of the activities in the institutions; democratize the environment; affirmative action is also called for – extra coaching for e.g. so that juniors do not have to go to seniors for notes – on the first day itself ragging must be introduced as an offence. NSS like activities must be reactivated; general body meetings of teachers and students must be encouraged to discuss problems of students in general and ragging in particular; “freshers” must be encouraged to take part in one or the other social programmes; educational institutions need not depend on the police for internal problems; media should not sensationalize events;

Ms. Albeena, SFI former President of the JNUSU: have been associated with the anti-sexual harassment of the JNU: the responsibility in preventing ragging must be put on the institutional authorities; we wake up to incidents of ragging only when major offences take place – the tendency to be lax or whether only a warning is necessary, a written apology, or suspension or the extreme steps such as rustication or criminal prosecution should be a decision should be taken by the anti-ragging committees themselves; these committees should have elected student representatives and representation of faculty; even three or four students

campaigning for these positions makes a lot of difference in sensitizing the student community – indirect elections and nominations will not serve this purpose; the JNU experience is different where juniors are helped by the seniors; this is because students are empowered and there is a democratic environment in place; defining ragging is the most important task before the Committee appointed by the Supreme Court.

Shri Sharad Shukla, SFI, Bhopal: [gave further evidence in regard to the ragging incidents in the Medical College, Bhopal] there should be participation of outsiders in the anti-ragging committees; it should be broad-based with representation of parents, students, faculty and NGOs who are outside the influence of the institution which has a vested interest in suppressing incidents of ragging; there should be some mechanism of supervising the functioning of the anti-ragging committee; such oversight bodies could have representation of police also; slave distribution of juniors in each block in the medical college equates only incidents of ragging in every hostel instead there should be hostels for each year separately; the practice of making PG students as assistant wardens who side with the seniors; those who fight the practice of ragging are themselves victimized and there should be a mechanism of protecting them;

Meeting of the Committee at Jaipur – Conference Hall, University of Rajasthan : 15th February, 2007

Prof. Chandra Krishnamurthy could not attend due to prior commitments. All other members were present. The Committee was welcomed by the Registrar and the Vice Chancellor of the University and thereafter all teacher, members of the faculty and other authorities withdrew in order to enable free and frank discussion by the students.

Lakshmi Kant Bharadwaj, ABVP General Secretary: there is no ragging in the university, there should be anti-ragging committees involving students in professional institutions where there is ragging prevalent; elections to student unions should be held compulsorily so that ragging does not take place; elections ensure that candidates and groups protect the voters; caste feelings are so strong in this region that no one wants to offend any particular castes and there is therefore no ragging;

Isha Sharma, student, Purnima College of Engg. 4th Year: ragging is somewhat

necessary in all institutions whether professional or otherwise; we have started a mentorship programme to curb ragging; there is one mentor from the 2nd year over 7-8 'freshers', a 3rd year mentor supervises the 2nd year mentors' groups and 4th year mentor supervises the 3rd year mentor groups; it is better to curb ragging through involvement of students rather than through force; this was started two years ago; this method is effective; the rudeness has come down; even the 2nd year students do not realize that interaction has turned in to ragging; "freshers" can go and complain to the 3rd year mentors; mentors take remedial classes also; each level of mentors feels obliged

Shivika Nagrath, International College for Girls, Degree and professional courses: mentors can not be from among students after all they are just one or two years senior and what greater wisdom can they impart; we have a system of teacher-guardians and the teacher being a senior person understand the problems; both systems student mentors as well as teacher-guardians; the identity of the complainant is not disclosed hence there is no provocation or grudge nursed by the seniors;

Lokesh Sharma, Law Student, 3rd Year, Rajasthan University: moving away from the traditional system of learning – teaching is one cause of evils like ragging; in rural areas there is no ragging because of the closer and stronger bonding between students; this is an urban phenomenon; there is a rural-urban feeling which is also responsible for ragging; English speaking students are more likely to rag;

Snigdha Singh, Maharani's College, Jaipur: there is no such generalization possible that rural students do not rag and only urban English speaking students rag; there is no ragging in in the college, there is a two month period of interaction; juniors must respect the seniors,

Jyotsna Singh, ICG: each one who is ragged feels that he or she should also rag; there is ragging everywhere the difference is only in degree; we have the impression that the university has maximum degree of ragging;

Babulal Khariawas, 3rd year Law Student: NSUI: I have never been ragged in the last several years and I have stayed in all hostels; introduction parties and get togethers actually divide; there has been not a single incident of ragging in the Rajasthan University; student elections and ragging has no connection because ragging is indulged in by the anti-social elements while elections are not fought

by anti-social elements; there should be mixed hostels; the managements of private institutions actually encourage ragging so that each batch of students is controlled by its senior; private managements suppress information on ragging;

Jitendra Meena, Ex- President, Rajasthan University Students' Union: ragging is a revenge and if senior students and faculty or authorities take the initiative this menace can be stopped or prevented or at least limited; introduction should be organized by the authorities; there is a curiosity to get to know the new comers in to a campus; it is important to the campus family to know and respect each other;

Pragya Mehnot, ICG, 3rd Year: hosteler, the actual reason behind ragging is that the seniors want to convey that there is someone above you and can control you even though you are away from your parents, this is important so that you learn to live in a community away from your families;

Narsee Kirat, 1st year BA, Aravalli Hostel, University: Ragging should take place; was ragged by way of general introduction, but had heard of worse forms of ragging in some hostels,

Rajpal Sharma, President, University Union: there should be workshops and seminars to sensitize student community about the limits or affects of ragging; introduction and healthy ragging should be encouraged, but should be done in a formal manner, there should be a forum for interaction where seniors and juniors must be given the opportunity to express, in the prospectus itself should contain at least one page dedicated to the aspects of ragging and the ban on it and the punishments contemplated, even police cases could be reported in extreme instances; professional colleges have this tendency of ragging where physical violence takes place and we have brokered peace; opportunity should be given to the guilty, their parents or guardians should be called and there is no need to give extreme punishment;

Arun Singh Jadon, Final Year, MBBS, SMS Medical College, Jaipur: Unfortunately the College is famous for ragging, there is no residential facility for the 1st year students, was ragged terribly in the first year, the severity of ragging has declined since then, there is less ragging in the campus but ragging exists outside; there is a disciplinary committee against ragging; one matter was reported and the culprits were suspended for three months, I have never ragged

physically, stressful course of study is one reason why medical colleges and long hours, students who are ragged do nurse a grudge but want to take it out on their juniors; the atmosphere is very warm after the ragging is over; it is good that 1st years are not in hostels because it could be worse for them; however even the “freshers” want to be ragged or else think that they are being socially boycotted;

Arvind Choudhary, Research Scholar, Commerce Faculty, Financial Management, Rajasthan University: have been in the campus for the last 9 years, there has been no ragging in the university campus, in hostels all faculty students are present; students contribute and hold social interaction sessions parties;

Laxmikant Bharadwaj: “freshers” in other professional colleges take the help of student leaders of the university as protection against ragging; students in private colleges are vulnerable because if they are ragged they can not still leave the college due to the huge fee paid; the students who are from private colleges must be frank and admit that there is ragging; action should be taken against the managements of these institutions; NAAC committees;

Meghna Goswami, PG student, ICG: there are no student elections in the institutions, there is an anti-ragging committee with student representation along with the faculty, ragging is very mild like dance or song; there is a personality development session but it can not be called ragging;

Rahul Saraswat, 2nd Year, Maharshi Arvind College of Engg.: ragging leads to maintaining discipline in the campus; if the juniors are not curbed and disciplined they can create chaos and they can not be curbed by one or two faculty alone and therefore the seniors help; ragging is perceived due to the communication gap; the information about the campus has to be accessed from someone and teachers are not available all the time therefore seniors are helpful; building bondage between seniors and juniors after all the juniors have to work in jobs and orders of seniors are to be carried out in real life situations as well so what is the harm; if there is physical harm in ragging that should be not accepted and such matters naturally would have to be reported for that there should be a committee of teachers and students; even the 4th year students rag after all just because they are too seniors does not mean they should not rag;

Akanksha Natani, BA Pol Sc. 1st Year, Anne Beasant Hostel, Maharani's College: it is a social evil; juniors get a lot of freedom in the first year of college compared to the school, the seniors almost always tell us that they ragged only

because they had been ragged; ragging should be converted into social interaction, a formal occasion, each institution and its seniors must set their limit but no physical torture; no law can overcome this social evil; “freshers” and seniors must stay in mixed hostels, interaction sessions add to the confidence; anti-ragging committees should not have senior students and should only be of faculty and such a committee should be held responsible for incidents of ragging; and the action against the guilty should be taken timely and immediately and the committee should be empowered;

Vijay Singh, MCom Previous, Rajasthan University: ragging is ragging whether it is mild or strong; there should be no ragging whether you call it interaction or by any other name; the committee should be of outsiders and neutral and it should be at the district level so that those affected can go and report; and it should be empowered;

Mahesh Dhaka, State General Secretary NSUI, Mass Communication Student: there should be no criteria for ragging; we can not distinguish between what constitutes ragging because it only complicates; there should be no district level authority it should be left to the institution level otherwise false complaints

Kuldip Dhaka, Research Scholar, Political Science: there should be no ragging and there should be no occasion like interaction sessions which only encourage ragging;

Ashu Gupta, 3rd Year Mech. Engg. MA College of Engg.: Personality Development Programmes but no ragging; I have gained a lot from my seniors and they help me with books etc. I am hopeful that this networking will help me in my career where my seniors are employed; there should be sensitizing of students about ragging;

Akash Nehra, LLB 2nd Year, University Hostel: Ragging has been created by the Media and its hype; this is a projection since 2000; ragging or torture from dear ones after all;

Banwari Lal Jat: PhD scholar, English Literature, University: There has been no ragging in our university, because the university community reflects the rural society which has great bon homie, intro sessions are a must;

Vimal Choudhary, advocate; former President Students Union, 1973-74: there was nothing like ragging in the past during our time; it is a despicable crime and it should be banned; it should be made in to an offence under the IPC; it should be included in the Ordinance of the University and should be punishable by rustication; it is humiliation of the young;

The afternoon session (2.30 PM onwards) was an interaction with representatives of institutions of higher education in Rajasthan. Prof. Tiwary, Registrar, Rajasthan University welcomed the gathering; Vice Chancellor of the Rajasthan University, Dr. NK Jain added his words of welcome. Chairman, Dr. RK Raghavan, introduced the topic and invited comments and suggestion; he clarified that the visit of the Committee was not on any inquiry mission but only wanted innovative suggestions and accounts of the ground realities.

Prof. PPS Mathur, VC, Medical University: The PMT book-let mentions the consequences of ragging which is banned; during counseling sessions also at the time of admissions a bond is taken; the Committee for Anti-Ragging is constituted and names and contact numbers of members is also widely disseminated; ragging needs to be taken back to the original state when introduction and interaction between seniors and juniors used to take place in a cordial manner; law will not help; even if you make a law it would not make much of a difference.

Dr. Umesh Bansal, JD, Collegiate Education: three types of ragging are prevalent; monetary extortion; a list of offenders must be publicized and there should be punishment in place including extreme measures; action should be taken against the institutional authorities; heads of institutions should be held responsible.

Dr. Rakesh Duggal, Principal, Government College, Boondi: we should explore the root cause of this malice; it is due to disinterest in studies in campuses, it reflects the lack of value ethics; there should be awareness programmes through the involvement of the faculty; institutions should encourage social interaction at the very beginning of the academic session; punishment does not help as laws would be ineffectual; there should be some statutory warning in prospectus and widely publicized.

Mahesh Sharma, Warden, University Hostel Research Scholars: instead of punitive measures we should have quality measures like more more interaction

between “freshers” and others through cultural activities, sports etc. institutions should be made responsible under an Act wherein institutions are made accountable.

Dr. NK Jain: VC: there have been no instances in any of the 18 hostel or 6 constituent colleges and among the 25000 students on our campus.

Prof PS Garg, HOD, Library Sciences, Rajasthan University: it can not be curbed by simply saying that we should not institute stern measures – there should be a central legislation against ragging; promote healthy interaction between students in the presence of faculty and other authorities; there should be a fear of strict action and extreme punishment in the event of proven guilt.

Prof. Arvind Agrawal, HOD, Anthropology, RUniversity: In 1976 JNU had no ragging while all other institutions of the period suffered the malaise of ragging; seniors were helped by the seniors with academics as well as coping problems of Delhi; the JNU model could be replicated, it is the tradition of the institution which is to be credited in the case of the JNU; 2nd Year students of an UG programme and Final Year students of 2year programmes; there should be committees to curb ragging; identify mischief makers by all seniors wearing name tags; there should be child-line like Help Line for counseling and assistance in ragging incidents; the chief of the unit must be made personally responsible for incidents of ragging; great care should be taken when new institutions come up.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan Azad, Rajasthan College, Jaipur, Public Administration: Ragging is a real problem in colleges in the regional context; there should be checks in the very beginning of the session and there should be more interaction sessions between old and new students; student elections are essential; orientation programmes should be organized in each college at the beginning of the session – this has made a difference in my college in the last three years; discipline should be maintained by the college and university administration; college and university administration must take strict action against students who take part in ragging.

Prof. R.K.Rajoria, Dean, Poornima College of Engg.: appointment of floor supervisors among faculty; college bus incharge faculty; controlling of city buses during _+ 30 min; conducting oath just before admission of juniors, “freshers” party with in 2-3 weeks, hostel warden and other s taking rounds,

incharge faculty in hostels, networking of seniors for overseeing mischief makers, orientation session, vigorous engagement of seniors so that they are kept busy; self development programme by seniors for juniors as part of the 500 hours four-year programme to deal with the rural-urban divide which is real and not imaginary; students coming from the rural background lack self-confidence and are not versed in English and suffer from some sense of inferiority.

Prof. Lokesh Shekhawat, VC, Jodhpur University: there are innumerable opportunities like the NCC etc. which can be used to tackle the problem; lack of administrative will is the reason for the state of affairs; outside political interference and influence should be resisted; an example is that when we wanted to intervene in a matter of harassment of a girl student, her family withdrew the complaint under some pressure; cited the example of architecture students who are absenting from classes for the last 20 days and their parents have not turned up despite invitation; No one comes forward to complain, they are so scared.

Prof. GLChoudhary, Balaji College: media should educate rather than suppressing incidents of ragging and other social evils; laws and rules would not help as we have no dearth of good laws; no one gives evidence.

OP Gupta, OSD, Rajasthan Government: anti-ragging measures must be started right at the time of admissions; even outsiders are engaged in ragging not necessarily by the seniors; institutions have to keep a watch from the initial stages itself; we teachers become disinterested in campus activities; we are suffering because of this neglect on our part; teachers are the builders of the personality of students; already provisions of existing laws are there but no action is taken under those laws such as the IPC where action could be taken if only we are alert and concerned; parents have no less a responsibility.

Dr. JN Choudhary, Associate Professor of Sociology, Associate Proctor, Rajasthan University: magnitude of ragging has nothing to do with the rural or urban background; from the beginning chalk out a programme of joint seminars of seniors and juniors; wide publicity be given to the consequences of ragging; a disciplinary committee should be formed consisting of senior faculty members and representatives of parents or guardians;

Prof PS Ranawat, Udaipur University: we have advertised a fine of Rs. 25000 and other punishments in the prospectus; there is a 3 hour duty for faculty in

hostels; interaction sessions are held in the presence of faculty members; it is not so much of a problem in Rajasthan; ragging is not fashionable not a done thing;

PN Mandola, protection of public properties, Jaipur: ragging is a major problem with social and political dimensions; it has increased with the declining political standards in our public life; parents are the most worried and stressed lot; every parent be asked to give an affidavit that if the ward is caught in ragging he or she would stand rusticated; this is essential to put pressure on the parents and faculty who know that it is only 5-10% of the students who indulge in ragging. Such students would then be kept under watch; there should be similar affidavit by students; these students are political and socially influential; there would be no FIR against such students.

Gp Captain (retd) Nehal Singh, HOD, SKIT, Jagatpura: if we follow the simplicity and the spirit of the problem needs to be understood to solve it; I was a administrator of the Air Force Academy; when women were inducted in uniform for the first time we treated them in the same manner except the physical aspect in relaxation; ragging had benign beginnings; the problem of ragging involves us all we are all part of the problem so we should not be putting the problem at the door steps of students; all sections must unite in confronting the problem; so treat this problem as a holistic one there should be interaction not only between the students but also students and teachers and parents and administration. Harsh punishments are not a solution; too much controls are bad only use them sparingly;

Dr SL Agrawal, Principal Government College, Banswara: curb political interference and outside interference by old students and others.

Dr. Geetika Kapoor, University Poddar Instt. of Management, Rajasthan University: email and sms are becoming a potent tool of intimidation; administration needs to be trained in checking this dimension; a mentorship programme would be very useful; alumni can also be helpful.(cyber ragging)

Dr. Damayanti Gupta, Principal, University College: students in hostels need protection, all the suggestions of orientation and interaction etc must be emphasized more in hostels;

Meeting of the Committee at Cochin (Government Guest House, Ernakulam) – 21st February, 2007.

Chairman introduced the Committee to the student representatives who were the first to be invited to discuss the issues.

Ms. Sindhu Joy, All India Vice President and State President of SFI: also a research scholar in the Kerala University; in order to check whether there is ragging there should be permanent committee in each campus and there should be a overseeing committee at the level of the university; separate hostels for the 'freshers'; SFI is against ragging; there is no ragging in the state; in 2005-06 a girl was raped by her seniors in the campus of nursing institute and physiotherapy; the reason is there is no political activity in these campus – wherever there is political intervention of student organizations juniors are protected and there is no or little ragging; a few campuses which lack in student organizations with political activity; college student unions; the above mentioned matter is now in the court and student organizations have taken it up in a very serious way there are women's wing also; managements delay reporting the matter; in private professional institutions there is no protection to students who are victims of ragging; SFI is against both teasing as well as ragging; Parent Teachers Associations should also be involved; the recent high court orders banning students politics would be detrimental; in TKM Engg. College brought in outside goons to settle scores;

Mr Salvin K.P.; All India Democratic Students Organization: The failure to implement a law which bans ragging is very clear; Kerala has a law against ragging; commercialization of education is responsible for this; democratic activity in campuses can prevent it; student participation alone can substantially address it; since "freshers" are not organized; cultural opportunities should be increased;

Kabeer, Campus Front; District Unit Ernakulam: non political student body; ragging is widely prevalent despite the ban; it peaks in June and continues over the year; there should be familiarization session of a cultural nature right at the beginning of the academic session; the antiharassment cells formed under the act are inactive; managements and government authorities who have turned a blind eye are responsible; institutions have a vested interested in suppressing incidents of ragging; their failure to prevent ragging results in incidents which they then suppress; drug addiction is on the increase and it is also a contributory factor in ragging; I live near an Engineering College and juniors are forced to take alcohol and drugs; taking drugs and alcohol are now status symbols; the forces behind

the protection to those who rag also protect the ones who are ragged so that the incidents are under the wrap; it all starts with introduction and mild forms such as extorting money in canteens and restaurants but there are extreme cases which are locally known; ragging is against not only the state's culture but also against humanity;

Jais T. James; General Secretary, KSU: KSU has always been against ragging; no senior should be punished for ragging which he may not have committed; students as a mass must be involved; all the various committees must be activated; identify the culprits who create disorder in campuses; are these students, or student organizations or any mafia; teachers rag students in the name of internal assessment;

Prince Thekkan; State President of Consumer Organization: there should be an outside agency to monitor on what is happening in the campuses; juniors are scared to complain to the principal and authorities because the authorities have a vested interest in suppressing incidents; these could be the PTA provided it is not under a principal, it could be NGOs; helplines should be established so that the victims can seek help; boards should be displayed; victims often prefer to change the institutions rather than to complain to the principal; principals do not wish to become complainants due to the litigation and procedural harassment; there should be some effective forum like the consumer forum or womens' commission to dispense quick justice otherwise regular legal processes would take years; there should be an awareness programme for students to let them know what they should do in the event of their being subjected to ragging;

Abdul Nazar Panadan; Vice President, PTA, CUSAT: also run a hostel for about 140 students from 3 different professional colleges; Principal of the College is the president of the PTA; ragging often figures in the proceedings of the PTA; we often feel that student organizations are themselves responsible for ragging; I know of several institutions where there are no student activities but they have no reported incidents of ragging; in Kerala it is difficult to suppress incidents; there is no incident of physical ragging in CUSAT; a student who complained against ragging by naming a number of persons admitted to having been instigated by some one to settle scores; seniors' identity is not known therefore ID cards must be displayed compulsorily; there should be additional staff (teaching or nonteaching) temporarily assigned along with the warden in the first two months in hostels; a committee at the level of the college – with principal and PTA

members to monitor ragging; a second committee at the university level with representatives of the first named committee; and a third state level committee with the minister to head it; to attend to the complaints; there should be a police outpost near every campus what is important is that police are available on call when needed in the campuses;

Santosh Kumar; Joint Secretary, PTA, CUSAT: every campus must have student organizations; private colleges are able to control ragging; student violence is also ragging; hostels must have wardens and security especially for the 'freshers'; outsiders should not be allowed in college hostels; there should be a committee to prevent ragging with PTA and students and teachers being represented in the committee; "freshers" should be given an opportunity to meet the student organizations in the very beginning; there should be get together; anti-ragging cells are inactive they must be activated; all students must have the help line numbers and also numbers of the VC and principals; "freshers" must be given separate uniforms, internal assessment must continue; there should be student organizations and activities in private institutions also.

Committee met teachers, wardens and Vice Chancellors and other authorities in the second session

Prof. PK Abdul Azeez, VC, CUSAT: we share the concern of the society about the atrocious nature of the inhuman practice of ragging; CUSAT has adopted the ban on ragging; we have rules and procedures and code of conduct; there are of course difficulties; the cooperation from the victims is non existent; they do not come forward; or do not give evidence often back out; ragging therefore goes on; while we accept that some amount of interaction is alright but physical acts must be banned and university must have the authority to take action; if the matter goes to a court it drags on and no decision may be given in time so justice with in a stipulated time needs to be ensured; university must act on its own decisively when the university takes action stays are granted by the courts and the culprits are back; University courts should itself be the appropriate authority;

Dr KS Radhakrishnan, VC Sri Shankara University of Sanskrit, Kalady: the University has not a single incident of serious ragging; it is ragging free institution; only one incident which is more by way of political rivalry; there should be some mechanism devised by the university or suggested by the Raghavan Committee by which seniors and juniors can be brought together and

could interact in a healthy way; there should be awareness programmes especially in the professional courses; if there is healthy student political movement there would be less scope of ragging; awareness programmes must be there in schools also; council of senior teachers to oversee the warden's activity; punishment must not be so harsh it should be reformatory and not necessarily punitive;

Dr Mangalam, JD, Medical Education: was Principal of a Dental College, Calicut; ragging incidents are coming down in medical and dental colleges; posters and awareness campaign communicating that strict action would be taken seems to have some effect; first year students are accommodated with the PG and are kept away from the immediate seniors for the first few months; incidents brought to notice are proceeded against; there are a few identifiable culprits; they are often powerful both politically and financially influential; "freshers" often do not gather courage to complain, every one knows the culprits but in the absence of evidence no action takes place; permanent cadre of wardens could be a good way to go about it;

Dr Mohammed, Registrar, Calicut University: there are problems of ragging; committees were formed in compliance with supreme court directions; whenever there is an incident some punitive action must be taken and FIR must be lodged within 24 hours; delays often lead to dilution of incidents; a student has to be given TC which must mention the reason being that of ragging; the idea that ragging could be defined as a crime punishable under the IPC is good;

Prof. Binu Mangal, JD, Technical Education: there are two reported cases of ragging in the last two years; one in an engineering college and another in a polytechnic; the cases are with the police; there should be preventive measures, I have been a principal of an engineering college; there should be dedicated posts of wardens and additional charge being given at present does not work satisfactorily; complaints are looked into by the committee and inquiry is conducted by the Principal as per the state law; PTAs are very active; there are incidents of ragging outside campus hostels; only police can make inquiries in outside cases;

VR Padmanabhan, Director of Collegiate Education: the State Act came in to force from the 23rd August, 1998; ragging is punishable with imprisonment [an English version of the state act was handed over to the committee]; all the

universities have already endorsed the Act; supreme court guidelines have also been circulated; Rules are yet to be framed; the consequences of ragging needs to be reiterated; provisions of the Act should be read out to the students and an oath should be taken; the state Act has proved to be very effective; under the Act with in seven days action should be taken

MR Unny, Registrar, MG University, Kottayam: there has been one notorious incident of ragging in the nursing institution directly managed by the university; the incident is in the court of law; seminars were conducted in every institution under the university after this incident; ragging is mostly in professional colleges; ragging does not happen among day scholars; in private affiliated colleges there are wardens in hostels; there are many unreported cases of ragging in private colleges; frequency of incidents is high in professional colleges; there is a provision in the university Act that the university shall approve the hostel where students stay outside campus; in such hostels approved by the university if there are incidents of ragging then management of the hostel as well as the university can be held responsible; we have formed counseling centres for student services; these centres which were suggested by the Kothari Commission (1966) must be activated and in our university these have worked; there is a teacher counselor; we must be alert towards bogus complaints; those making false complaints must be taken to task;

Dr. Jayaprakash; PVC, Kerala University: the University has endorsed the State Act; the Act is more than sufficient if it is properly implemented; the counseling and awareness programmes would be effective; there should be separate hostels for the 'freshers'; seniors may be made sufficiently aware of the provisions of the Act; there is no need for a Central Act;

Dr Razeena Padmam, Prof. Behavioural Sciences, MG University, Kottayam: some provision should be made so that complaints could be made without revealing identity [whistle blower]; there should be surveillance units which should proactively inquire; meetings of senior students should be held sufficiently in advance warning them of the consequences and giving them advice; wardens should not wait for complaints but be proactive;

Dr Premjith, Registrar, Kalady: the PTA should play a vital role, as soon as any incident occurs it should be referred to the PTA which could have an antiragging committee; alternatively PTA members could serve in the antiragging committee;

A. Ramachandran, Registrar, CUSAT: North Indian students rag their own north Indian juniors; there are no posts of regular resident wardens or hostel superintendents; students control hostels; police on deputation to hostels for security;

The meeting of the Committee at Chennai took place at Pine Hall, Hotel Savera, Dr Radhakrishnan Road on the 22nd February, 2007:

Chairman introduced the session. The first session was an interaction with students :

R. Kailas, 1st year B.Com, DG Vaishnav College: there is absolute freedom and no control within the campuses and that is why juniors are asked to do menial errands, on the first day he was asked to part with 10 rupees and also do errands, there should be squads with the Principal and Warden which should go around; there is ragging in the hostels and near bus stops; it is difficult to identify the raggars; it could even be outsiders; ragging is known to be very harsh in professional colleges;

K. Satyapriya, Queen Mary's College: there is no awareness of the law against ragging; there should be an undertaking from parents and students at the time of admissions; college unions should not be involved in the anti-ragging committees; confidentiality should be maintained and there should be complaint cells in each college; ragging has reduced after the awareness brought about by the incident of the murder of Navarasu (s/o the VC, Annamalai)

Viju Verghese, Government Arts College, Nandanam: At the time an undertaking is given but it is not taken seriously by anyone; there is a tendency to rag because of having been ragged in the past; my friend was a small built boy who was asked to undress and swim on the floor; bring drinks, bring cigarettes;

Anjali Ramamurthy, Law Student, Dr Ambedkar University: female students do not rag only males do; ragging depends on the vulnerability of the victim, some students can not cop with the questioning; canteens are hotspots as there is no hostel at present in our institution; there should be ice breaking sessions;

The case of Vinod Kumar, S/o Shri AM Raja as narrated by Shri Raja: [written

complaint handed over which is to be forwarded to the govt of TN]

A. Yogeshwaran, student, Dr. Ambedkar law Instt: potential raggers must be identified and counseled; education is in the hands of the private players and that has led to commercialization more than discipline; media has a very bad influence;

CV Ramaswamy, a parent: why is there ragging? It is more out of being accepted among the peer group; juniors are being singled out in ragging and therefore it is necessary to space out the timings of the juniors so that the seniors join their session only weeks after the juniors join so that by that time the juniors would have familiarized themselves; punishment must be deterrent and prevention is better than cure; some of the raggers also get monetary benefits; the sadistic pleasure is more often the reason;

Sauri Rajulu, a parent: ragging is a heinous crime and a violation of human rights; it is an animal passion; deterrent punishment to the person committing ragging as well as to those who are abettors; it is at par with terrorism;

K Mahaendra Varman, Student, Stanley Medical College: there is no ragging in the college now for the last four years, mine was the last batch which was ragged as 'freshers'; now I am in the final year of medicine; although at first I thought of giving it back when I reached the second year but my parental intervention made him give up the idea; the system in place does not allow any scope for ragging; there is a chief vigilance officer, teachers stayed with the first year students even during nights, the anti-ragging committee is very active, ragging used to take place either in the mess or in the rooms, potential raggers are identified by the faculty and are included in the anti-ragging committee; security is provided to the first year students while on their way to the mess and other likely places of vulnerability; since we do not have ragging any more therefore the seniors feel they have no right to rag the juniors;

K Bhanumathy, student of 1st year in 2003, Stanley Medical College: there is no ragging and endorsed what Varman has stated; there is no security required for girl students;

Anital Ambrose, Loyola College; student of communications course; there is no ragging in the college her father intervened to say that there is exaggerated ragging in movies; there is ragging only in professional colleges;

AK Pattabhiraman, parent: punitive action should be taken and without delay;

Mani Megalai, student, DG Vaishnav College, we should teach our students not to hurt others,

Bharat, student, Guru Nanak College: ragging starts from schools, most college students unions have excessive powers; Managements should have powers to take immediate action;

Aarthi, student, KMC: there is no ragging in our college;

Ms. Meenakshi Rajagopal, Spl. Secretary, Higher & Technical Education, Government of Tamil Nadu: there is no monitoring of the implementation of the law on ragging; by and large TN is a peaceful state and there is no ragging openly; the present law is attracted only if the incidents taking place in the campuses and if there are incidents outside the campuses then the law is not attracted; police normally comes into the picture in such outside cases; there is a mental block as the victims often feel (when they are women) that their reputation would suffer and then they do not complain; there is less ragging as juniors are also adopting coping strategies by overtures and becoming friendly with seniors in advance; awareness of law is low;

G Selva, State Secretary, SFI, TN: [gave a written memorandum] ragging normally takes place in self-finance colleges; state government had sent out circulars only after one or two major incidents have take place; there is no democratic environment in self-finance colleges; in private colleges groups are formed on parochial lines; in Satya Bhama there was students' agitation because goondas have been engaged by the management; the Lyngdoh Committee report was mechanically circulated to all levels but nothing gets done; we demand that there should be cultural festivals and co-curricular and extra-curricular activities for which funds should be allocated to institutions by the government; there should eb some element of humanities and social sciences in medical and engineering courses so that the development of personality is holistic; a student called Manikandan (BSc Maths 1st year, Vivekananda College) tried to commit suicide due to torture by a Swamiji who has now been removed only after students protested; there have been incidents of students boys as well girls committing suicide in private campuses – no action is taken against

managements who harass students – apparently, the boy was not given an appointment letter against the campus interview by the employer and the college did not hand it over because of fee arrears (Karpagammal Polytechnic, Paramakudi, Ramanathapuram District); in TN there is teasing in the name of caste, in Kadalur district the dalit students were not allowed to take part in the flag hoisting function on the Republic Day; upper caste students rag dalits and faculty and managements belonging to upper castes do not take action; commercialization of higher and technical education is the main reason along with the lack of a democratic environment.

Rasu, Kilpauk Medical College: seniors send the juniors on errand; use juniors to shift their belongings from room to room; I spent six months only attending to the errands of my seniors; I have not done this to my juniors; I had not complained out of fear of the seniors;

K Rakesh, final year MBBS, MMC: was worried about ragging before I had joined; I have counted my beatings; they did it in a state of intoxication; they also asked me to dance and sing; in the second year I realized what had happened to me was not all that severe it had to be taken in a positive manner in a sporting spirit;

BS Venugopal, Presidency College: there is ragging only in the hostels of the college, not with day scholars; inmates vacate hostels and go home if it is unbearable; because there are too many witnesses ragging does not take place in the open only in closed rooms; ragging starts from the +2 stage itself and my brother has undergone it in school hostel;

Subrat Gochhayat, Sir Thyagarajar College: from Orissa; a senior called Kaviraj took the keys of my cycle and later punctured it and returned it; his explanation was that seniors can take liberties with juniors; they also forced me to buy them cigarettes with my money; when I cried and told them I did not smoke and told them that I was from an outside state, their explanation was that they themselves undergone ragging and wanted to know how it felt to rag; now we are friends; there should be some law against ragging; no one talks to me in the college;

The Second session was an interaction with faculty and authorities of institutions.

Dr Sundaram, Vice Principal, Stanely Medical College: evil of ragging started with professional colleges and now we see it even in schools; there are legal provisions in the state; we need to look at it from the points of view of both those who rag and those who get ragged; a via media has to be found; incidents have come down drastically in our college; parents and faculty interact in the very beginning; there are teacher –guardians for every ten students; similarly, there are student-counsellors for every ten students or so; as soon as there is an incident seniors are informed; serious action is taken if serious incidents come to notice; we have put up notices; there is an anti-ragging committee and it is very active; first year students are in separate hostels; posters are put up; students and parents have to give undertaking that if found ragging they can be suspended or rusticated and there would be no readmission in other colleges too; parents of senior students are called to the hostel for joint consultation; there has been no ragging for the last three years and a culture has emerged and now the seniors do not rag because they feel they have no right to rag as they have not been ragged; for the first month the juniors are protected; [copy of orders and documents of the college were made available]; we never had any problem earlier in nursing; now male nurses have been admitted and there are some incidents of ragging in nursing which we are now trying to curb in a similar manner; the Stanely alumni association is also engaged;

Dr Dinakar Moses, General Warden, Stanley Medical College: from the administrative side we have formed the hostel councils which lead the anti-ragging committee; after three months we get the feed back about the potential trouble makers and those with a tendency to rag and the identified senior is coopted in to the antiragging committee; sensitization must begin from the classes X onwards so that there is value attached to respecting others' rights and dignity; responsibility should be given to students; there are only some stray minor incidents;

Dr Gajendra Raj, General Surgeon and Warden of Men 's Hostel, MMC: there have been some stray incidents in the medical college – we now make routine visits to all the hostels and we are very friendly with the seniors; there is no ragging now; juniors are kept separately in hostels; we use student-counsellors to help us;

Mrs Yasmin Arif, Crescent Engineering College: Faculty at the college: there

have been cases also of a junior bullying a junior; we have an orientation session; this programme is used to prepare the juniors to face the seniors – they are given different activities in small groups to be performed on stage and one senior is assigned to each small group; this becomes an opportunity to display the talent of juniors; the assigned senior motivates the juniors so that each one of them performs and becomes confident; they are helped to deal with seniors; we also have since 1998 a senior-junior interaction session where year wise seniors and juniors are allowed to rag or rather have a rapport which then becomes a mild ragging session; faculty members are also present; if the faculty is not present it may become more serious; there is ragging only on the day of the interaction but neither prior to that day nor after that day are the seniors allowed to rag; this has helped reduce ragging; there have been one or two instances of students being thrown out; faculty members are assigned responsibility to oversee the hot spots like bus stops and other lodging centres; first year students are accommodated in separate hostels; juniors are taken by faculty around the campus so that they are not misguided by the seniors;

Dr KM Abubacker, Asst Prof. Mech Engg, former Dy Warden, Crescent Engg. College: the orientation session mentioned earlier is organized by five or six students who then ensure that limits are not crossed;

Dr. Sundaram: Incidents of ragging are down in professional colleges because their career may be at stake; there is no dress code so there is no differentiation between seniors and juniors;

Dr Jayanthi, Vice Principal, KMC: there has been a student clash three years ago where we took serious action and therefore students know that they would be proceeded against if caught; there is a separate mess and separate timing for juniors;

Dr Sarwani, Reader, Dr. Ambedkar School of Excellence in Law under the Dr Ambedkar affiliating Law University: members of anti-ragging committee; five year law programme; there is not much of ragging; it is a new institutions; now there are seven hundred student and we find there must be some method of curbing ragging; the diary contains instructions; small cases have come up to the Director; the incidents are because some other students who were in the university's five year programme have now joined our centre and having undergone ragging there is some tendency; merger of institutions;

Haritha Devi, Lecturer in Law, Dr. Ambedkar Law College, Anna University: in order to prevent ragging the law alone would not help nor would keeping them isolated; there has to be a conscious effort to encourage them to integrate; in our institutions moot court exercise brings them together as they learn much more from their seniors;

Mr Salim, Representative of All India Islamic Teachers Association: there is ragging; incidents are reported off and on from all types of colleges; these are often not reported; those reporting are also punished and those who rag also are punished; in four of our colleges counseling has been started; some teachers and some students are selected and are posted at bus stops and other hot spots – responsible for identifying the raggers, later they visit the homes of the raggers and counsel them regarding values; but there are serious incidents in hostels; a law is a must; social organizations must be used for counseling in order to prevent ragging;

Dr Srinivas, College of Engg. Prof and Associate Warden, Anna Technical University: there are about 2000 boys and girls in our hostels; most of our students are only keen on getting their degree; only a few indulge in these undesirable activities; a notice is displayed in the first week; we create awareness; we assign specific area to faculty members and they being responsible for maintaining discipline in their jurisdiction prevent incidents; an undertaking is taken from students and parents; if any incident is observed we do not allow any time to elapse; there are resident counselors in every hostel; hostels are separate and so are the mess facilities and even the timings are different; juniors are encouraged to move around in groups; the resident warden eats with the juniors and seniors are not allowed inside juniors' hostels; this has yielded good results; the key is to take prompt action; in the hostels also undertaken from students as well as parents;

Dr Sundaram: media blows up incidents to extraordinary levels;

Dr K Muthukumar, Lecturer, Asst Warden, ACTech hostel, Anna University: separate blocks for first year students; juniors have to depend on seniors and must be trained by the seniors so in order to facilitate that seniors expect some respect; therefore there must be some sessions on how to respect seniors;

Giri Ranganathan, JD, Collegiate Education: have been principal in the past;

the State Government has issued circulars; we monitor, we expect principals to ensure discipline; in some rural areas there are incidents not of ragging but of communal clashes or caste based clashes; we do not have a state level cell to monitor the implementation of the state law;

Dr. Jayanthi: Chronic failures that is to say poor academic performance and politically influential background are two of the common traits noticed in those students, who are more likely to rag.

Vani Doraiswamy, The Hindu: I cover education; I have come across a student of MMC who did not want to depose for fear of reprisal; he comes from Pondicherry; he was badly beaten up he brought his parents and complained to the college authorities who did not act; his parents also complained to the police who took bribe from the culprits and did nothing; the student is now in the final year; we need a state level monitoring committee; the politicization of campuses is responsible for incidents of ragging; Anna University has no ragging incidents;

Arun Kumar, Deccan Chronicle: I have reported in last November about a student of B.Pharm in the MMC; he had been beaten up, sexually assaulted, was ragged, I had personally taken him to the Dean who asked the boy as to why he had gone to the media; the committee took it very lightly one of the members even said there was ragging even in his days; when he took a TC, the management has given a bad conduct certificate, the boy was beaten up by seniors soon after his complaints; after I reported the matter the beating has stopped; there is no pattern for the ragers; one point that may be valid is that there could be a rural-urban divide; the Deans and Principals must be made responsible; there should be outsiders in the anti-ragging committees; there are no good student bodies who could be responsible for maintaining discipline; institutions often complain against the media for blowing out of proportion minor incidents say so because they do not want the image of their institutions compromised;

S Kumaran, Dinamani: students should be made aware against ragging from the school level itself; moral studies must be imparted at the school; the ones ragged are often soft and timid by nature and often from rural background; Annamalai University VC's son was lynched in an incident of ragging; cinema also needs to be blamed for eulogizing ragging scenes;

[Prof. Dhande: people are over protective of the reputation of their institutions

and by covering up they actually harm their institutions – they must be oriented on how to handle ragging]

The Committee heard AM Raja

The Committee interacted with Vice Chancellors and Registrars in the third Session:

Dr P. Vanangamudi, Prof. In Dr. Ambedkar Law University, Chennai and Director of the School of Excellence in Law: the definition of ragging is unclear, what is just an interaction and when does ragging start is not clear, when it commences and when it ends is not clear; unless the law defines ragging; normally first year students do not complain it is a rare phenomenon; it needs to be clarified the extent to which false complaints against seniors can be distinguished; sometimes grouse and differences from the villages are brought to campuses and taken out in the form of ragging or complaints against ragging; cinemas are also responsible for making ragging fashionable; most of the films show campus life in the unreal life which is aped and imitated; teasing is part of our culture; at times class and caste hostilities get reflected in incidents of ragging; I am responsible for my institution as the Registrar in-charge; to prevent ragging our institution which is a model institution we do not have to do much, because there are no instances with in the campus; we do not have a hostel; students stay in hostels around institutions; we register private hostels where students can stay, we do not have a system of preventing what happens in such hostels but if any instance comes to our notice then we can take action; we provide hostels for girls; the students of the Government Law College have now been integrated

Dr V. Radhakrishnan: Registrar, Bharatidasan University, Tiruchirapally: Till the first week of February, 2007 the Bharatidasan Instt. of Technology was with our university; the incident (which the father of Vinod Kumar s/o A.M.Raja complained) was one of enmity in the village which was brought to the campus; [promised to share the information raised by the Committee with his counterpart and also check records of the university about the appropriateness of the action taken when the matter was with in the jurisdiction of the university – at present the BIT is under the newly created Anna Trichy Technical University]; have been principal of the AVC College, Mayavaram; we have had no cases of ragging because we used to advise the seniors to treat their juniors as younger brothers; boys of class X also stay in the same hostel as the campus is for Polytechnic, Arts

and Science and Engg. College; in the university we are putting the first year students in separate hostels; seniors normally give a welcome party in December or so it is suggested that the welcome parties should be advanced to July so that the juniors and seniors become friends;

Dr R Ramprabhu, Associate Professor, TN Vet. & Animal Sciences University, Chennai: there are no known/reported cases or incidents of ragging; the university has issued circulars to prevent ragging and to curb incidents;

Vembu, a senior citizen, who had been a central government employee and later retired from a private company: a boy in my family who was doing a first year of Engg. in an institution in Kharagpur became a mental wreck and had to be brought back and given treatment – because of this his father died and he has gone from bad to worse; this incident took place four to five years ago; more than the first year students it is the parent is the most traumatized; so every incident even if very small must be taken seriously; parents must give an undertaking that their ward would not indulge in ragging; if you can have Valentine's Day, why cant you have an Anti-ragging Day? Ragging is indulged in only by the rich and powerful and influential students and not by the middle income or poor students – the economic background is relevant; a committee of senior students must be formed every year so that they are made responsible to minimize ragging; there is an Act on Eve Teasing, there is an Act on Dowry, but what is required is a commitment to implement and enforce the Act – this is what has happened to the Act on Anti-Ragging also; there should be merciless action so that the right message goes out to the raggers;

Mr Selvaraj, former IAS Officer, former Secretary, Education, Govt. of TN: I have already sent in a letter giving my own feelings on the subject; what has been conveyed to you by the various stakeholders is only the tip of the iceberg; unless a national level approach is taken we can not achieve much; there should be an institutional arrangement like a permanent body that should monitor and take action in instances of ragging; there is no political support because those who are involved have political support and can easily suppress all information; the teaching community has to be sensitized to the realities of the situation; the teaching community is afraid of taking action; the son of a VC was cut into pieces, the accused had to be acquitted because perhaps the police booked the wrong person; the VC died in pain and suffering while receiving condolences; there are very many constraints facing teachers; we need to expand the definition of

ragging even though the present state law has a comprehensive definition – because some serious social problems are allowed to be taken revenge through ragging so that the perpetrators can go scot free; as in other areas of industrial establishments where there is a vigilance cell with police officers on deputation, I think there could be some effective vigilance through special officers who could be made responsible for curbing ragging especially in autonomous universities there could be a liaison officer whose salary could be borne by the autonomous universities; punishment should also visit those who delay reporting the incidents of ragging and the heads of institution should be covered under this punishable offence; may be after five to ten years after rigorous steps as mentioned are taken there may be no further need to continue as incidents may come down and then may be we could even withdraw these measures; responsibility has to be externalized rather than internalizing it for possible solutions; SS Subramaniam Nadar Institution is managed by Shiv Nadar of HCL and professionally managed institutions are able to tackle this problem; influential parents of juniors sometimes engage goondas to take revenge on the seniors who rag their children; [Chairman would pass on the letter from Mr Selvaraj]

Sh. G.Venkateshwaran, former advocate and educationist: ragging is an illegal custodial violence which should not be tolerated; students start ragging as fun and it transgresses all limits and goes on to become criminality; most of those who engage in ragging are influential, children of powerful people and the rich; a week ago a girl's blouse was torn and she was detained coercively; there should be no compromise; discipline and action must be mandatory; there may be an opportunity to appeal which should be heard by a three member committee headed by the principal and others but dismissal must be mandatory; our engineers and doctors of tomorrow can not be allowed to participate in this heinous activity and therefore the punishment must be dismissal and without fail, after according reasonable opportunity to be heard but decision must not be delayed; IPC should be amended to include Ragging as an offence of illegal custodial violence.

Osmania University

Registrar submitted that minor incidents take place and in most of the cases, complaints given /are withdrawn. As far as professional Colleges are concerned,

it was found that in the colleges like Pruepu Vishwanathan Engineering in Cudappa District acute ragging takes place in which mainly students of third & fourth year are involved. But NSS students put the posters encouraging anti ragging tendency.

Mr. Chakrapani looked into both aspects of ragging i.e. individual behaviour and group behaviour. Group behaviour needs to be moderated particularly the College with hostels and preferably starting of the academic session. There is a need for constant monitoring for which Lecturers should be present.

Jaiprakash Rao opined that reason behind frequent ragging in professional colleges lied in their smaller strength.

Prof. Ram Sinha, Dean Students Welfare, National Institute of Technology Warangal (NITW) explained that ragging normally takes place in the initial 45 days of the session.

Though ragging continues, it is largely outside the campus and 80% of students are not the raggings and only 20% indulge in ragging.

PVC of Maulana Urdu University suggested that curriculum of value system should be included in the syllabus of Technical education. There is a close link between drug abuse and ragging.

Dr. Anthony Rajula, Director, College Education advocated that a committee should be constituted in the beginning with clear punishment help lines.

Dr. Murali Mohan, Additional Director, observed that the state's anti-ragging act is good. He suggested that complaints can be registered through e-mail also to take swift initial action. Punishment should be minor such as suspension.

Dr. Binualja, Dean Students Affair, Agriculture University said that Students segregate themselves after admission on social or other basis. Warden alongwith other faculty members must take responsibility of curbing ragging. Action must be taken immediately and if not taken has larger ramifications.

Prof. Sudharshan Rao, DSW, Andhra University, suggested hostel should be separated for freshers. Though scale of ragging has not increased in last 1 year, still measures must be taken such as 1. Anti ragging undertaking to be signed by students and their parents, (2) 10 days awareness programme (3) Police protection in the campus (4) Identify certain sensitive areas, and surprise visits (5) Proper poster display with legal provisions and important phone numbers such as University Administration, Police Officer, DSW, VC, etc. It was also observed that ragging earlier started in Engineering Institutes and later on also spread to Arts Colleges. Breaking the myth, girls also indulge in ragging.

Mr. Sambhava Siva, Director, Medical Council emphasised that punishment should be such that can bring change. Monitoring should be done in the first week focusing on mindset change. He complained that management does not own the responsibility. Anti-ragging Act should be stringent. Ragging menace is increasing due to student coming drunk in the campus and victim not coming forward. Parents must be involved and must own responsibility. Seminars and symposium must be held. Summary procedure should be adopted.

Prof. P.A. Hamser, College of Veterinary Science, it is rampant in professional Colleges because students are away from their parents and parents come in the picture only after the punishment. It is common that culprits are back benchers who are not regular in academic activities. Ragging is criminal activity which can involve eve teasing and molestation. He suggested that common freshers day be celebrated with monitoring done by the teachers. There should be special prizes for good behavior.

Vice Principal Acharya Nagendra suggested a scientific Study on the whole phenomenon focusing teacher student relationship, immediate punishment and counseling by fellow students.

Dr. Kuman, Director Students Welfare, Warangal, argued that there has been an increase in judicial activism and administrative acts, but still ragging forms an essential part of student psyche. Faculty must be directed to complete the

syllabus and they must focus on more academic activities.

Principal, University College, Osmania University suggested installation of complaint box and black listing in the severe cases.

Principal, JNT College, emphasised that institutes must be secular; freshers needs to be seperated and disaffiliation as a last measure.

Rajendran Inge, Director, Technical Education was of the opinion that students outside the College premises also needed mentoring. Each faculty should be allocated 10/15 students. Media can make beneficial contribution in the forms like documentary.

Dr. P.C. Cheagar, Director, JNTU, held that mindset of institutions needed to be changed. Management should bring the psychologists in the picture.

Dr. Pradeep, Faculty, IIIT, Hyderabad indicated that Teaching Human Values in the Curriculum can help in creating ragging free environment.

G. Gunashekar Naidu, and M C Aeuheman Reddy, students, Rajabhadur Institute of Engineering, expressed that ragging is carried out in the name of entertainment and time pass, especially in university Campus and hostel. They held that outsiders and Friends of seniors are also involved. College management should implement the law. It was also pointed out that Student committed suicide by jumping from the top of the building of Ayurvedic College in 2002.

Dinesh Chaudhari, State Gen Sec. of Students Federation opined that the evil of ragging revisits frequently and psychological aspect is quite crucial.

Lucknow: Meeting of the Committee on the 14th March, 2007.

Rajiv KR : Lyngdoh Comm. Report has helped the State of UP and UP hopes Ragging will get under control through Raghavan Comm.

Shri Raghavan: Menace of Ragging should be eradicated. We need to be firm, bold & clinical in our attitude.

Dr. Govila, VC, Dental University : The problem exists but has reduced considerably. A reception should be arranged between Seniors & Juniors after 15 days of reopening of the institute of each academic session. Mutual acquaintance takes place ; a proctorial Board to be appointed and separate hostel with guards to be placed. Lunch and Tea must be served separately. It is important to check ragging not only inside the university but also outside the campus.

Dr. Hari Gautam , VC, KGMU : There was not a single incident of ragging that took place since last 3 years.

Dr. Kamal Sahany, DG, Med. Education: Superintending 6 medical colleges also private medical and dental college. He explained ragging where the simple acts are violated. Some of the ragging act he mentioned was haircut, “Farji Salam”, restrictions to go to canteen and to dance naked. The Chief Proctor (From Senior Faculty) must be designate and assisted by other members and he/she must be paid honorarium. There must be active anti-Ragging cells in the institute. Rules must be displayed; Complaint boxes should be put on all corners. There has been 90% control in the institute by taking these steps:-

- i) Senior students were fined Rs. 5 thousand,
- ii) Suspension for 3-6 Months,
- iii) Expulsion for habitual offenders,
- iv) Disciplinary action against staff.

However he also insisted that private institute must be penalized for not taking action against ragger. The local committee must take action and it should not be propagated.

DR. S. K. Katiyar GSVM Kanpur : There has been a downward trend in the ragging since past few years. However administration must be strict; the squads must take place round the clock with vehicles for 3 to 4 months; video cameras to be installed and CC TVs to be placed; Student-parent meeting must be held for “freshers” before the session and Senior students must be warned. There should be separate hostels for “freshers” with warden living in the hostel.

Dr. Usha Sharma, Meerut Medical College : Ragging has changed from

healthy tradition to ugly situations. This is due to lack of communication between student & faculty, dilution of punishments and over looking government orders. There must be security guards should be present around the clock; separate hostels for 'freshers'; wardens must live in the hostel; complaint boxes to be placed and there should be restricted entry in the institution. The Prospectus must have an affidavit from; Guardians must comply with the rules and regulation; Counseling provision in the institute and meeting of the students and parents must take place. However there must be clarity in the different forms of ragging. In the institute the welcome party to take place after 2 months from the beginning of each academic session and the members of the institute must give time to know the students each other. In the technical college as seniors teach a lot show introduction between the seniors and juniors is desirable. The defaulter on these counts must be penalized.

Dr. R. K. Sharma, Dean, SGPGI : Ragging takes place due to immaturity. In this institute (PG institute) there is a tradition to welcome the freshers. Here the seniors protect the juniors and prevent Ragging. Therefore the senior level Students as watched dogs must be involved in preventing ragging.

U. S. Tomar, Registrar, UPTU, Lucknow : UPTU covers Engg., Pharmacy, Architecture etc. In this institute an order is circulated every year and the guidelines are posted at different places. The seniors are warned and anti-ragging squad is formed. The Proctorial Board, Dean Students, Chief Warden, Warden are responsible to look after students. There are 30-40% Day scholars whose security is provided by the institute even up to bus stand. The Warden of Girls Hostel live in the hostel. There where to cases of ragging in Gaziabad and in both the cases the ragger where expelled however in ABS Engg. College Ghaziabad, the Ragging took place outside the Campus. It is essential to have "freshers" function in 15 days and council elections must take place.

Amarik Singh, IET Lucknow: The Government order has helped in curbing ragging. There are 6 orientation programs and around 2 hundred staff is assigned duties around the clock to check ragging. The students visit the campus which makes them comfortable. The action is not harsh against the ragers however any such action must be justified. There should be a District level committee to check ragging. Government institution must not suppress the cases and punishment must be progressive in nature. A Committee must be formed to check female

ragging.

Dev Murti, Chairman, Ram Murti Engg., LKO : It is the affluent society students that indulge in ragging. Ragging Cell must be formed, parents must be educated and courts must ensure speedy dismissal of cases.

Ramesh Chandra, Agri-Cult. Univ. Allahabad: This is 97 years old institute. Ragging here takes place due to lack of Communication between students & Administrative authorities. In this institute there is an advisory system where in each student is assign a staff advisor. The Proctorial Board and Anti-Ragging cell takes serious action whenever needed.

D. M. Dennis Agricultural University Allahabad: Ragging takes place mostly in the Hostel as evident when some residences had been contacted. However the institute welcomes the freshers. To check the brochure must be explicit and the telephone numbers of the warden must be displayed.

A N Singh, Chief Proctor, LU : There are 30,000 students where the “freshers” are closeted. It is the student Leaders who are spoiling the campus.

Ashok Saxena, Pricipal, DAV : Government order has be followed.

V N Seth, KU: The Government order is there but it is not implemented. However there must be preventive anticipatory measures. The entire faculty should be present on the first day and senior-juniors interaction must be healthy. It is also important that all classes must be held.

Joga Singh, Chief Proctor, Bareilly College: It is a very old college almost 180 years old and there are 27 thousand students. In this college there is no eve teasing cases and generally pressure comes from outside.

K H Khan, HOD URDU, Dean, Meerut College: Almost half of the problems of ragging are solved by introduction between seniors and juniors. In this college there is a provisional a secret report on the basis of which inquiry is conducted and those found guilty are expelled. This has led to improvement in the situation of ragging. It is an old college running since 1892 and has 22

thousand students.

LU Dr. Neeraj Jain: Ragging exists but takes place in a different manner. Normally first there is introduction and then molestation. Teachers facilitate in the creation of blocks which leads to conflict therefore ragging must be depoliticized and any outside interference should meet the punishment.

Sardar V. B. Patel Agri. Dr. Jadav : The University Administration should be strict and District Administration must be involved in curbing ragging. The transcripts of the students must have the mention of the position of students vis-a-vis ragging.

Dr. V S Verma, CA Univ. Kanpur: The prospectus must give details about the provision and warnings to check ragging. There must be counseling sessions, orientation programmes and the posters and banners to be displayed.

Dr. D S Yadav Faizabad Agri. University : An anti ragging committee should be formed.

Dr. Hari Gautam, KGMU, VC : Having rich experience as VC BHU, Ch. UGC and interaction with the Principals of various colleges mentions three things.

- 1). There are “sick” institutions which are prone to ragging. The politics and academics must not incite ragging.
- 2). Students do Ragging in spite of all measures. Therefore punishments should be exemplary.
- 3). Mere introduction is not ragging however physical & mental torture is ragging.

There must be stringent law to curb ragging having provision of exemplary punishment this will act as a serious deterrent. Punishment should be up to rustication and the ragger must not be allowed to take admission in any university. FIR must be launched and imprisonment may be for 5 years. Action must be taken against institutions such as De-affiliation of the institute when the

institutes fails to curb ragging. Group formation and power centers must be dismissed. Those institutes should be closed down which repeatedly fail to curb ragging.

Dr. KK Dayal, K.U. ; There is Government order (10 Aug 2000) which is follow in the university. However there is a need to have a clear academic calendar giving the details of anti ragging measures and it must be followed strictly. Attendance must be made compulsory.

Srinivas Ojha, M.G. Univ, Varanasi: Ragging is basically an administrative problem. The institutions must be De-recognize if it fails to curb ragging. The teachers must be bold and take active steps to prevent ragging there should be a national cell where students can register their complaint.

Shraddanad, M G Univ, Varanasi: In this university there is no ragging case so far. There should not be separation between freshers and seniors in the hostels.

B R Kukreti, Bareilly: Ragging takes place in the form of tradition and so lots of activism is require to curb ragging. However, there must be remedial measures taken at the institute level and the punishment must not be huge as it is not a solution.

Ajai Pratap Singh, Proctor, Ram Manohar Lohia University, Faizabad: There should be strong administration with no interference from outside. It has been observed that FIRs are not effective and there is invariably pressure from the politicians and bureaucrats to the district level administrative authorities.

SK Raghuvanshi, Sp. Secy., Med. Ed.: The Department is serious to curb ragging.

KM Yunus, Secy, Med. Ed. (Yunani etc): There should be a central act or guidelines to be followed by the institutes to prevent ragging.

Ganesh Bagadia HBTI Kanpur: In this institute Students are imparted a regular course on Jeevan Vidya dealing with human relations and value system by which the commitment to other students changes. There is also a chart of organizational duties and functions for the second year students which motivated them not to do ragging. It was found that the Third year students did ragging and

they were asked to do social service. They were also sent to sidh–society for integral development of Himalayas. These students were transformed and become torch bearer for other students. They developed a commitment to build good human relations. It is also important to have value education as part of the curriculum. This can be up-scaled in five years. Teachers can also be trained who in turn can train the students. These measures can not only curb ragging but also eradicate the other social evils.

Shrikant Misra, President student union, Gorakhpur University: Ragging is not an important issue however a cell must be formed at all levels (Institute, District, State, National) where students can lodge a complaint. In no case the management of the institute should withdraw its action and must try to ward off the outside pressure particularly the influential people. It is observed that the rich kids indulge in ragging and strict action must be taken against them. Ragging should not be seen as an incident between rural and urban students and dalits and non dalits.

Raj Kumar Singh, MG Kashi Vidyapeeth, President Students Union: It has been seen that wherever there are Students Unions with good leaders they take positive approach to prohibit ragging. Authorities must ensure fair elections which will throw strong leaders who can help in curbing ragging. There must be secret marking system for the senior students preferably given by juniors for their behavior and those whose behavior is exemplary must be honored. However, the dismissal of the cases should be done in impartial manner at a level higher than university system.

Hari Ram, Parent, Lucknow: Parents must take good care of their child.

CS Verma, Parent, Lucknow : Parents must monitor their wards and students welfare center to discuss the problem particularly the social problems. There has been lot of emphasis on the job aspect and careerism and not on social commitment. This need to be changed students must be involved in social issues and community works as there is lack of communication and regard for others. The teacher students' relations must be healthy and lots of cultural activities must take place so that the students can express themselves.

HK Verma, Parent: Ragging is more like a fashion where the criminal mind of ugly students destroys good students life. Ragging is another name for

DADAGIRI . It is therefore important to regulate the academic environment first and all the members of the institute must attend their duties. In case of ragging there should be strict punishment.

Dr. Govind, VC, Dental University: There have been no acts of ragging in the last three years. It is after 15 days of admission the juniors meet seniors in the presence of teachers and the proctorial board.

Ganesh Bagadia: It is important to have an understanding of human relationship and regular functions must be organized where seniors can participate and build up good rapport with the junior students. In case of ragging the punishment meted to the ragger can be a drop out of once semester.

Srikant Mishra, Gorakhpur University: There should be an appellate cell at the state level, District level and the institutional level. Punishment must be strict for the ragers.

Rajkumar Singh, Student Union Kashi Vidhayalaya: At the institutional level there must be a provision for student union election. The university must give marks for good conduct. There also must be secret marking for those with good conduct helping in preventing ragging. A small proportion, around 10%, indulges in ragging. The college authority must give opportunity to those implicated in ragging cases before taking the final decision of rustication.

Hari Ram, Lucknow, Parents: The parents/ guardians of the wards must be in touch with each other and also with the students this will help in curbing ragging.

C. S. Verma, Guardians: The parents must have a close interaction with their kids and they must monitor their activities. Students must have an increased role in the society. Social work department of the university must involve itself in the activities and functions of the students. There is a need for parents-students organization for sustain interaction.

Dr. K. K. Bhal, Kanpur University

In the institutes the academic calender must be enforced strictly and the attendance must be made compulsory. Ragging is largely political in nature so if there is a political will then ragging can be eradicate. At the state level a cell must

be form to monitor ragging.

Dr. Usha Sharma, Meerut Medical College, explained the reasons for ragging such as indiscipline, intolerance, lack of communication between teachers and students, etc. There should be more security guards. Warden and Asstt. Warden's residence should be in the hostel. There should be restricted entry of visitors. An affidavit must be signed by students and Guardians at the time of admission.

Patna March 15, 2007.

Dr K Mata, VC, TMU opines that ragging is systematic abuse of human rights. She explained the literal meaning on the basis of Webster's dictionary and actual practice ranging from friendly gesture to very ugly acts. Generally it starts with introduction of seniors, but results in psychological trauma, when new entrants are forced to smoke, drink and sexual abuse. The mob mentality also instigates this menace. It is a myth that the ragging instilled boldness, rather provided an opportunity to non-serious senior students to exploit the juniors. The children of affluent classes indulge in ragging, which renders the University administration in Dhirtarashtra's position in Mahabharata. Before the committee, VC asserted that TMU did not witness any major incident of ragging. But largely the SC guidelines and MHRD's orders related to Ragging have remained ineffective. VC advocated stern action in case offence of ragging occurs. Accountability of institutions as well as officials must be ensured. Officers and wardens are liable to be punished and in extreme case, affiliation of the errant institution should be withdrawn.

On the preventive side, administration – Principal, professors and faculty should be in touch with new students, which would instill confidence in them. The process of teaching needs to be strengthened. Seniors should be made aware of the anti-ragging rules, which must be displayed prominently. CCTV camera can be deployed at salient locations.

VC concluded with a sense of optimism as he felt that nothing was wrong with our youth and proper handling of them can help in getting rid of this social evil from the campus.

Dr. A K Agarwal , Prof & Head of Department, Department of Neurology &

Warden, Patna Medical College; observed that technical institutions have more tendency of incidents of ragging. The basic cause is introduction to seniors. He argued that legacy is impossible to eradicate. He further submitted that they had the practice of one day program of introduction, in which “freshers” go on stage and perform for 5-6 hours. By this, element of fear goes down. Any wrong incident gets reported also.

Dr. K M Verma , Principal, Patna Medical College recounted that professors accompanied students and take them out in campus for the first 1 ~ 2 months. He held that heavy ragging was not there. He was of the view that seniors must interact with students and fresher’s day can be preponed. The GoI instructions need to be followed strictly.

Dr. RR Prasad, Academics & student sections, Patna Medical College reasoned, “since admission process goes on for 2 months, which causes delay in “freshers” nite. He also submitted that Patna Medical College undertakes measures to sensitize students.

Senior students of the Medical College told the Committee that that there should be no ragging. They informed that they formed anti-ragging squad. In case any incident is reported, then laid down process is followed. They also observed that ragging is more frequent in technical institutions. They argued that mismanagement of teachers by the Government and the Management creates rift and distance between students and faculty. This is the reason that academicians are not bold. There should be one column in college certificate indicating whether certificate holder has participated in ragging or not.

Abhay Kumar, Principal, LS College, Muzzafarpur began with the introduction of the 107 years old college and submitted that ragging had been very old and was present in 60s even. But at that time it was a part of healthy tradition observed for initial 15 days only. Now, ragging has been turned into *dadagiri*. Now it is going on throughout the year. Caste factor has converted ragging to *dadagiri*. He also observed that ragging is more in cities, like in LS college, Patna college, technical colleges. He suggested that awareness program

by HRD on the pattern of AIDS should be launched with a special focus on centers of higher learning.

Undertaking should be furnished by the students as well as their parents. Orientation in classes was also suggested. He prescribed strict punishment with autonomy to concerned authority. For this, Authorities need security. Local administration must support anti-ragging initiatives and actions.

Dr. S Kumari, Warden, Girl's Hostel, B.B.A. University, Muzzafarpur informed that her hostel accommodates 350 students, mainly from North Bihar. She submitted that no ragging reported in past few years. She viewed that ragging is a serious challenge in which higher batches/castes dominate, scold and abuse juniors. Mental torture may linger on for a longer time for the recipient. This also adversely affects discipline in the institute. She suggested that seminars with anti-ragging messages should be organised in the beginning of the session. She underlined the fact that punishments must be administered to the offender(s).

Awareness programmes can be effective.

Prof. K. Prasad, Dean, Faculty of Social Science, Patna University argued that caste factor is not the cause of ragging. Only handful of student indulge in criminal activity. Proper security measures should be provided in colleges. Special care has to be taken in hostels.

Dr. Meena Kadua, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, P.U., suggested to reduce distance between teacher – students. For her the efficient Dean and Proctor are important factor in checking the ragging. The need of the hour is to eradicate criminalization & politikization from the campus.

Dr. Umesh Misra, Dean, Faculty of Commerce, Patna University advocated that introductory sessions be arranged at the beginning of academic year. Anti-ragging committee must be constituted at the University level itself on the pattern of flying squad for the examination. Proctorial system should be introduced and strengthened. There should be a Chief proctor at University

level. Proctors will report the cases to him/her.

Dr. Rashmi Singh, Warden, Girl's Hostel, Patna Medical College has the experience of 3 years as Warden of this hostel with the strength 300 girls. She asserted that no unpleasant incident of ragging came to the fore in past several years. Pleasant ragging like introduction) is of course there. She held that they were sensitive and cautious. She pointed out that it was the outside criminal elements responsible for creating problems.

Dr. Abha Rani Sinha, Supdt., Girl's Hostel, Patna Medical College, was satisfied with the cooperation of staff in anti-ragging efforts. Instructions are clearly given about the fixed time for introduction.

Dr. Akshay A. Singh from SD Jain College (Arts), Arrah observed that hostels are mostly outside the campus, where ragging is a serious problem. He argued that weakness of the administration leads to rise in ragging. Besides that there is a need to develop ethical values and a mutual faith between teachers & students.

Prof. D K Tewari, Dean, Faculty of Commerce, Vir Kunwar Singh University, Arrah portrayed ragging is a major problem and told about alternate traditions like *Maryada Mahotsava*. He suggested creative preventive and prohibitive measures for curbing ragging. He also opined that *Samnayav* is part of the college life i.e. the seniors and juniors had to intermix but with dignity. He suggested *SABAKPATRA*, undertaking from senior students and also a hostel based Committee. Help of Students' union can be taken in spreading ethical values among the students.

B.S. Jha, LN Mithila University, Darbhanga rued that University has no control over colleges except examination. But prevention squad comprising Deans, Warden, etc. should be formed. There is a need for elections to student unions to be streamlined. He also advocated for addressing "freshers" collectively, written undertaking by students/parents and common mess. Housing by caste should not be there. Students indulging in ragging should be given harsh punishments. Administration should also be penalized for continued ragging.

A. Yadav, VC, Bihar University (with 1,00,000 students), Muzzafarpur asserted that there was no ragging in rural areas and ragging was a phenomena of elite institutions. He held these factors - roaring ambitious parents, warped mind, rat race in competition, erosion of cultural values, responsible for sadistic ragging. There is a need to deal firmly with the offenders because scot – free offenders tend to create problems.

Dr. Ashok Kumar, Prof., JP University, Chhapra reported that there was no ragging in recent past and no complaint was registered at the university level. He was of the view that there should be proper introduction procedure. He appealed that we should follow our glorious *parampara*. He drew the attention towards this fact that student of Sanskrit, Ayurveda etc do not report any ragging.

Dr. Kumaresh P Singh, VC, Mithila University advised that staff & teachers should be trained to fight the battle against ragging. He noted that idle student tended to go for ragging and therefore, they should be engaged. Yoga & value education should be imparted. At the same time he demanded that there should be no political interference.

Prof. Arshad, Dean, Students, Patna University argued that ragging has its root in psychological problem, loss of values, and sense of alienation. He observed that it was generally done in the first month by second year students to first year students. He came out with 3 Ps formula for curbing ragging – Propaganda, Practice, and Punishment. He emphasised that Counselling should be available in academic institutions. For better prevention and cure, videography should be conducted in the campus for few first months of each academic session. Monitoring team should also be constituted. There is a need for adhering to Dress code, at least in the beginning. The students should also display their Identity Cards.

Nazziruddin, Madhepura submitted that there was no information on ragging in university. Parents and teachers should develop discipline among the students.

Dr. DK Sinha, VKS University Aarrah exhorted to launch a cultural movement against ragging which may include slide shows, films, lectures, etc. He also supports the plea of videography for this purpose. Besides this, regulation, ordinances, and provision in Penal code is also required.

Sadanand Shastri, BRA University, Madhepura held that caste factor was present in ragging. But negative system should be replaced by a positive system as well as positive mind set. Punishment should be given to offending student(s). He pleaded for action against erring colleges.

OP Chaudhary, NIT, Patna felt that this problem was serious. He further observed that dress code had failed and introduction often turns ugly. Administration should be allowed to act freely as caste consideration and pressure from higher ups are major hindrances.

Swadesh Kumar, RJD student wing complained that no elections had been held for last 24 years in PU. This non-democratic environment has certainly aggravated the conditions conducive for ragging.

Arvind Nishad, JD student wing suggested that anti-ragging cell should be formed. After the incident takes place, a University Inquiry Committee should be formed and adequate punishment must be awarded.

Varun Sharma, NSUI, held that even simple introduction became ugly and should be suitably regulated.

Rajesh K Yadav, JD(U), PU drew attention towards the firing in Botany Deptt., Patna University. He argued that discipline is important. 'Introduction' is not ragging as ragging involves physical and mental torture. He suggested financial penalty also.

Raj Kumar, ABVP, Patna was of the opinion that Science college Patna suffered from menace of ragging. So, there is a need for a Faculty counselor for a group of students. Harsh punishments are not desirable. It is not required if proper steps are taken before hand.

Subhash Chandramunshy, JD(U) demanded that student elections should be conducted in all universities and all the political parties should acknowledge the need to improve university atmosphere. He came out with the suggestion of badges for freshers.

Dhanjay Yadav, JD(U) felt that welcome ceremony of “freshers” should be organized. He list of recommendations included regular Student elections, Committee for curbing ragging with student representatives and appointing retired High Court Judge as an Appellate Authority.

Awadesh Kumar Lal, RJD emphasized the need for generating a feeling of “United” among students and treating “freshers” with honour. Socially lower background students feel a complex. Regional divisions also exist. Sexual harassment under the garb of ragging takes place.

Rohit Kumar Singh, JD(U) noted that caste based divisions like K – Phylum, S- Phylum have been present in the state. Another reason is that private schools/colleges ignore ragging in order to gain control / power. There is a strong need for camaraderie, actively promoted by faculty.

Abhyuday, AISF pleaded for attacking its root, i.e. social discrimination and social inequality. Lyngdoh committee recommendations for students’ union elections should be sincerely implemented.

S. Jitendra (Sunita) AISF , complained that cases of sexual harassment occurred and VC didn’t take note of the complaints. Holding ragging as social evil, Sunita also recommended formation of Anti – ragging committee (comprising students, teachers, & staff), speedy investigation of cases of ragging and giving appropriate punishments and developing “Social Value System” (*Samajik Mulyabodh*) among students, faculty, staff.

Viswajit Singh, ABVP, Gen Sec, Patna University strongly felt that Colleges should be sanitised from political interference.

Shashi Bhushan Kumar, ABVP suggested implementation of moral education, law against ragging, punishment in the form of social service, yoga, meditation, etc, use of IPC for any such offence and regular student elections.

Prakash Singh of JD(U) emphasised on developing *bhai-chara* among students.

Jai Narayan Kumar, ABVP suggested dress code to filter out the outside elements and hostellers overstaying for more than 5 years should be removed.

Niraj Sinha, Student activist claimed that one student (Sanjay Jha) was murdered during ragging. He opined that extreme form of ragging needs psychiatric treatment and emotional and spiritual training is desirable.

RP Singh, another student activist observed that ragging started from prestigious institutes and percolated from elite ones to common ones. He claimed that a boy was kept on railway track and sexual insults were inflicted as a part of ragging.

There should be some protection for the freshers.

Sonam Ragi, a local student advocated that Value education was desirable at university level as well as during classes of 9th to 12th. The reason is that value education is important for building character and moral judgements.

Dr. Prema Jha, V.C. Timba Bagalpur University enlisted various effects of ragging like fear, physical injury, etc. In some cases senior helps the juniors. She suggested both – hard and soft approaches to tackle the evil of ragging. Suggested hard measures included more accountability of the institution, strict punishment as deterrent, tightening the security and restrict the entry of outsiders. Soft measures prescribed were interaction of faculty member with students and academic staff, strengthening of learning of teachers, senior teacher to the warden, organising cultural and sports events, senior students sensitized and dress code. She concluded with this observation that involved students should be dealt with corrective approach.

Bangaluru, 17th March, 2007

Prof H A Ranganath, Vice Chancellor, Bangalore University, in his presentations made, talked of new forms of ragging, i.e. teleragging, cyber-ragging. It was advised that there must be a collective teachers' effort to check ragging. The teachers' should not leave their respective classes unless the next class starts so that there is no gap in between the classes, which otherwise provides a fertile ground for ragging. It was also brought to the fore that there undue pressures from various quarters and hence the decisions to punish raggars are not implemented. It was suggested that there should be district level anti-ragging committee in which DM, SDM, SP, MLA, MLC must play an important role. Mobile phone must be given to all concerned in prohibiting ragging in the institute and General Body Meetings (GBMs) must be held regularly. All the events to curb ragging must be brought in the academic calendar of the institute.

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ANNEXURE IV

Analysis of the Responses to the Questionnaire

Q.No.1 What is the significance of the first few days of college?

Experiences	Responses
Positive	52%
Negative	28%
Mixed	19%
All	100%

Q.No.2 What is the significance of the first few days in the hostel?

Experiences	Responses
Positive	16%
Negative	27%
Mixed	53%
No Response	4%
All	100%

Q. No. 3 What do you expect from a new institution which you want to join for higher studies?

Expectations	Responses
Academics/Placement/infrastructure/teaching	63%
Discipline/Care	15%
Freedom	11%
No Response	12%
All	100%

ANNEXURE IV Contd..

Q. No. 4 What do you expect from the senior students of that institution?

Expectations	Responses
Help in academics	44%
Friendship and Affection	37%
Escape Ragging	10%
Nothing	3%
No Response	7%
All	100%

	Q.No.5	Q.No.6	Q.No.7	Q.No.8	Q.No.9	Q.No.10	Q.No.11
Option -A	4925(47%)	7408(71%)	1766(17%)	5046(48%)	3523(33%)	4252(41%)	7516(72%)
Option-B	393(4%)	2388(23%)	2972(28%)	2337(22%)	5410(52%)	5788(55%)	2150(20%)
Option-C	113(1%)		4845(46%)	607(6%)			
Option -D	3475(33%)						
NO Response-	1564(15%),	674(6%)	887(9%)	2480(24%)	1537(15%)	430(4%)	804(8%)
TOTAL	10470	10470	10470	10470	10470	10470	10470

KEY:		Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Q.No.5	How do you make new friends?	By Smiling	By Teasing	By Scaring	By Helping
Q.No.6	Do you often take lead in making friends?	Yes	Other's Initiative		
Q.No.7	When someone bullies you, how do you feel?	Important	Insulted	Angry	
Q.No.8	I enjoy being teased and bullied!	Enjoy	Abstain	Leave Studies	
Q.No.9	I like to be in the lime light, by hook or by crook!	Yes	No		
Q.No.10	Are you happy to be friends with someone who has hurt you?	Yes	No		
Q.No.11	Do you think there should be procedures and guidelines as to how juniors and seniors be with each other in the first few days of college?	Yes	No		

ANNEXURE- V

Recommendation by the Group of Consultants

Consultants:

1. Prof. Aruna Broota, Prof. Deptt. Of Psychology, University of Delhi.
2. Dr. D.N. Gupta, Reader, Deptt. Of History, Hindu College, D.U.
3. Dr. B.M. Saraf, Reader, Deptt. Of English, Ramjas College, D.U.
4. Mr. Tanvir Aejaz, Lecturer, Deptt. Of Pol. Science, Ramjas College, D.U.
5. Mr. Rajesh K. Jha, Lecturer, Deptt. Of Pol. Science, Rajdhani College, D.U.
6. Mr. Harsh Aggarwal, CURE (Coalition to Uproot Ragging from Education)
7. Mr. Shivam Vij, SPACE
8. Ms. Surbhi Agarwal, Advocate, Supreme Court

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Principal Ramjas College and Mr. Sunil Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of HRD were also present in the meeting.

Preamble

The Committee is of the opinion that ragging is neither a means of familiarization nor an introduction with freshers, but a form of psychopathic behaviour and a reflection of deviant personalities. Further, ragging reproduces the entrenched power configurations prevalent in civil society.

The Committee also observes that the majority of abusive ragging is focused on the genital area and takes on sexual forms, leading it to comment that ragging is also a manifestation of widespread sexual repression in our society. Urgent steps need to be taken to address the above areas. Boarding schools and especially senior students need to be brought into the ambit of any move which wishes to check/prevent/ban ragging, as various kinds bullying and sexually abusive behavior, for instance, sodomy, originates at an early age.

Recommendations:

1. The definition of ragging provided by the Hon'ble Supreme Court should be widened to include "ragging as any act which violates the dignity of the individual student or is perceived to violate his/her dignity.

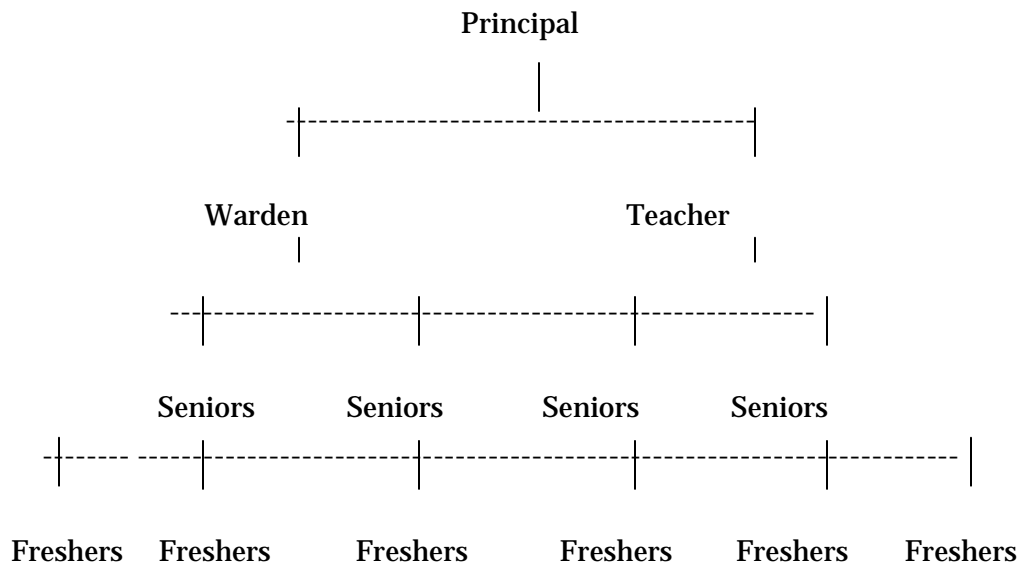
2. (a) Sensitization Programme: (S.P.)

The (SP) intends to monitor and facilitate personal growth for children and young adults and create awareness on the part of parents and teachers regarding the overall growth of students.

- (i) Parents, teachers, school children, college students need to undergo 20 mandatory counseling session through the year, every year with an experienced psychologist.
- (ii) Fee structure be changed to accommodate these sessions.
- (iii) A formal paper be introduced in the curriculum at all levels of study which deals with the acquisition of life skills and civic culture. (Along the lines of Environmental Studies / Sex - Education)
- (iv) Participation in sensitization programmes for teachers/ non-teaching to prevent ragging/sexual harassment, be made mandatory in their consideration for promotion.
- (v) The mass media needs to stop projecting ragging as a frolic and fun activity and instead act as the significant watchdog to take on the responsibility of checking this vicious practice. The state may intervene to regulate media projections/pictures which glorify/glamorize ragging.
- (vi) The SP must necessarily be a continuous on-going process. Thus, CDs and other specialized information packages developed by people who have interest in anti-ragging spirit be used to disseminate information and raise awareness throughout the country. Their statistics be used to campaign nation-wide.
- (vii) Democratization of student bodies and institutions promote student-student and student-faculty interactions along the lives of General Body Meetings, to discuss problems students face in general, and ragging in particular, be encouraged.

Prevention of Ragging

1. The Head of the Institution along with relevant bodies of the College/Institution be made accountable for any ragging in that Institution.
2. Every institution mandatorily must have a duly constituted Anti-Ragging Body.
3. An independent body outside the Institution be also constituted statutorily with representation from various sections of that University and civil authorities, where student may approach directly if local institution is hostile to complaint. (For instance in DU, along the lines of the Apex Committee constituted to redress Sexual Harassment in the work place.)
4. Within institution, mechanisms be developed in consultation with teachers and student bodies and non-teaching staff to check ragging. Such as:
 - a) A tiered structure where senior students be made responsible for a group of freshmen, in the hostel particularly, and who report to a group of teachers.



- b) Freshers be encouraged to join mandatorily two societies/clubs of the college and their participation be monitored by Staff Advisors to prevent abuse.
- c) Patrolling by proctorial committee of the College/Institution.
- d) The issue of warden: Warden is a specialized position. Qualified

people be appointed and undertake orientation programmes to run hostels. Warden's power, authority and responsibility to be clearly defined. Emolument and perks to be determined by relevant authorities so that it attracts competent and qualified people.

- e) A centralized comprehensive Anti-Ragging Act be enacted (Along the lines of the "Prevention of Sexual Harassment in the Work Place"), which may include:
 - (i) Define and describes various forms of ragging.
 - (ii) Recognise ragging as a criminal offense.
 - (iii) Provide for punishment which may extend to fine/expulsion/rustication/imprisonment.
 - (iv) Toll Free Helplines be offered for freshers in general and victims in particular.
 - (v) Include sections whereby victim may lodge an FIR.
 - (vi) Penalties or other structures be imposed on authorities such as Principals/ Wardens/ or bodies responsible for prevention of ragging.
 - (vii) Bullying and sexual intimidation in schools be brought into the ambit of the Juvenile Justice Act. Schools urgently need to upgrade redressal mechanisms.
- f) Special attention must be paid during framing any measure for the protection and rehabilitation of the victim.

Further Recommendations :

The Consultants Committee met on 17th April 2007 at Ramjas College in the office of Principal. The Committee reiterated most of the recommendations of its earlier meeting held on 21st March 2007 at Ramjas College. The Committee observed that ragging must be recognized as a cognizable offence and therefore necessary guidelines may be issued to the institutions to evolve some kind of redressal mechanism both at the local – institutional level and in the court of law.

In view of this the Committee made the following recommendations:

1. A centralized comprehensive Anti-Ragging Act be enacted.
2. (i) An amendment should be made in Indian Penal Code to include a chapter on "*Offences Related To Ragging*" Wherein ragging should be

made a cognizable, non-bailable, non-compoundable offence with punishment ranging from one year imprisonment and fine up to 7 years rigorous imprisonment and fine. Broadly ragging can be categorized in following way for which various term of punishment should be prescribed:

A *Verbal*: Where senior causes mental harassment, discomfort for the junior by forcing him/her to answer unacceptable/personal questions, dance, sing etc is said to rag the junior. It also includes within its ambit cyber ragging.

Punishment: 1 year imprisonment or fine or both.

B *Severe Verbal Ragging*: Where the mental harassment, discomfort is to such an act as forces the junior to withdraw from the college.

Punishment: 7 year imprisonment with fine.

C *Physical*: Any act by the senior towards the junior which inflicts bodily injury on the junior. Like beating the junior, hitting him/her with objects etc.

Punishment: 7 year imprisonment with fine.

D *Sexual Ragging*: where the senior asks the junior to do an act which damages sexual dignity of the junior.

Punishment: 7 year rigorous imprisonment and fine.

(ii) All kinds of Ragging cases should be decided in a time bound manner keeping in mind student mobility and binding of syllabus completion and so trial should be by fast track courts.

(iii) Pending the enactment and amendment in IPC, some guidelines may be available to institutional authorities whereby the institutions can draw some measures to check Ragging. Court may also laydown guidelines within which the authorities have to function, making it more feasible for victim to pursue his/her case under general sections in IPC.

At the institutional level the following recommendations were made:

1. The complainant can report orally or in writing either to the head of the institution or to the specific body constituted to deal with such cases. In cases where such act of ragging is witnessed by teacher, non-teaching staff or the administrative staff, the evidence need to be treated as final. The

- need to be a collective responsibility at the institutional level.
2. There is a need for collective responsibility at the institutional level. The faculty members non-teaching and administrative staff and the specific body constituted to look into the ragging cases must coordinate with the sense of moral propriety and share the responsibility of their decisions.
 3. The institutional authority must be an active party to move in favour of complainant to lodge an FIR. The complainant must have the freedom to send copies of his/her complaint to all concerned agencies viz NGO, District Magistrate, Media, Pressure Groups and so on.
 4. The cases of ragging need to be dealt on a fast-track basis within specific time-frame.
 5. There is a need to constitute a Monitoring Cells at the state level to be located in the Department of Higher Education and one nodal Monitoring Cell at the central level to be located in Ministry of HRD to coordinate with the functioning of state-level cells. These must include the civil-society bodies and the experts working in the same area.
 6. There is a need to constitute Anti-Ragging Committee in each institution responsible primarily to prevent and monitor ragging cases. The Committee shall coordinate its work with Teaching, Non-Teaching Staff and other members of the institutions and shall submit its report to the head of the institution. The head of the institution is required to submit monthly report to the state Monitoring Cells and a copy to be submitted to the nodal monitoring cell. This practice will enable also suggesting measures to be adopted before the session opens for prevention of ragging.
 7. There should be periodic review of the instruments and mechanism laid down in order to plug the loopholes and find other solutions if necessary.

ANNEXURE VI

Coordinated efforts to tackle ragging suggested

Hughawan panel hears testimony from students, parents

By Jack Greenwald

When they last met the student body committee for the first time, the Board of Trustees was in August 1974. Concerns about the current ragging problem were the focus of a hearing on that subject, and the first step.

At that time, the present structure of the Ragging Committee was set up. It was composed of students, faculty, and staff. The committee's first action was to set up a subcommittee to study the problem. This subcommittee was formed in September 1974. Its members included students, faculty, and staff. The committee's first action was to set up a subcommittee to study the problem.

Panel in early ragging committee trial sessions

• Mediators for resolution recommended

When the committee first met in August 1974, the focus was on the current ragging problem. The committee's first action was to set up a subcommittee to study the problem.

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Fracas over political interference in state universities

THE HINDU, Madras, 14.3.57. The Government of Madras has announced that it will take steps to ensure that the state universities are free from political interference. The Government has decided to set up a committee to investigate the matter and to report to the Government within a few months. The Government has also decided to take steps to ensure that the state universities are free from political interference. The Government has also decided to take steps to ensure that the state universities are free from political interference.

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The photograph shows a group of people, possibly students or officials, standing in front of a building. The image is somewhat blurry and has high contrast.

1. Name of the paper

2. Name of the Editor

3. Name of the Publisher

4. Date

5. Page no.

6. City/Town

7. State

Parents want ragging scenes cut from films

By DUE EUBESMUDHIT

Kuala Lumpur, March 16: The committee on protection of ragging constituted by the Union of Malay Teachers recently completed a survey with the aim of identifying the worst of ragging in the country.

The committee which has listed suspects from both sides since the December 2000 survey, recently published a report on the survey. The report is available on the website of the committee.

Committee chairman Datuk Kumaradasan

suggested that parents and teachers should monitor their children and students regularly, and work together to reduce ragging in the educational institutions.

Some suggested a ban on ragging scenes in movies, and a ban on ragging in schools. However, the committee members said they would not initiate a ban.

Dr Suresh Kumar of High School, Kuala Lumpur, Petai K.U. Kuala Lumpur, said he would work with parents, teachers and students to reduce ragging.

Mr Raju, an editor of a ragging website, suggested

parents in Malaysia are the

best bet to reduce ragging. He said he has written to the Malay Union, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Kerala Pradesh and would like to receive similar letters.

He said he has written to Prof. S. Sathya, the chairman of the All India University of Education, Ministry of N.E.T. Kerala University, Kottayam, Kerala, and to Prof. K. Anand, the chairman of the Kerala State Council of Educational Research and Training, Kerala, and to Prof. S. Sathya, the chairman of the Malay Union, West Bengal, India.

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Dinakaran Periodical
 English
 Daily
 Bangalore
 18. 3. 67

BU campus is 'ragging free' zone, any takers?

By K. S. Srinivas

BU campus has emerged as a hotbed of ragging activities. The police have to be called in to deal with the situation. The BU campus is a ragging free zone. The BU campus is a ragging free zone. The BU campus is a ragging free zone.

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ANNEXURE VII

डॉ. तिलक आर. केम
सचिव

Dr. Tilak R. Kem
Secretary

ANNEXURE - VII

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बहादुर शाह ज़फर मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110 002
UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG,
NEW DELHI-110 002

D.O.No.F.8-1/97(CPP-II)

29th March, 2007

Dear Sh. Sunil Kumar ji,

Kindly find enclosed herewith a status note on implementation of directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in respect of curbing ragging in educational institutions, as was required by Raghavan Committee.

with regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Tilak R. Kem)

Encl: As above.

Shri Sunil Kumar, IAS,
Joint Secretary (HE),
Ministry of Human Resource Development,
Department of Secondary & Higher Education,
Shastri Bhavan,
New Delhi

Status note on implementation of directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in respect of curbing ragging in Educational Institutions.

During the hearing of the case filed in the Supreme Court of India by the Vishwa Jagriti Mission highlighting the adverse impact of ragging of freshers in educational institutions all over the country in a public interest litigation case in which UGC was made one of the respondent the learned judges during the hearing of the case held on 16th July, 1999 had indicated that it would be appropriate if the UGC takes a more pro-active view in the matter and frame guidelines with regard to combating the menace of ragging in the universities and other educational institutions.

2. Accordingly, the UGC constituted a committee to frame the guidelines in the matter and the report of the committee was circulated to the Vice-Chancellors of all universities for strict compliance in January, 2000. A copy of the letter along with the report is **enclosed**. The guidelines are given in P.P.6-10 of the report (8.2).

3. The Ministry of Human Resource Development had recently directed the UGC to closely monitor the implementation of the UGC guidelines on curbing the menace of ragging in Universities/Educational Institutions. The UGC, at one point of time, was of the view that the educational institutions are autonomous bodies and are quite empowered to deal with the menace of ragging within the framework of UGC guidelines, Acts and Statutes of the Institutions and also with the help of the local law enforcing authorities. It is in this background, no concrete action for closely monitoring the ragging menace in the Universities/Educational Institutions have so far been initiated.

4. In its meeting held on 25.3.2007, Raghvan Committee summoned the Secretary, UGC, to place before it the action taken/being taken by the UGC in regard to curbing the menace of ragging in educational institutions. Since the mere guidelines on ragging has not yielded desired results, the UGC shall formulate the regulations curbing the menace of ragging in educational institutions for which a suitable item will be placed in the next meeting of the Commission.

5. The present work of dealing with the ragging in the universities/educational institutions is being dealt with by the Planning and Coordination Bureau. With a view to have the focused attention to the problem of ragging in educational institutions, the UGC shall set up an independent cell in UGC with due concurrence of the Commission.

| UGC

29/3 .

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UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
एन. टी. रोड, नई दिल्ली-110 002

D.O. No. F.6-129(CPP4)

January 13, 2020

13/01/20

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of the report prepared by a Committee constituted by the University Grants Commission regarding framing of guidelines to curb the menace of ragging in the Universities/educational institutes for strict compliance. The action taken in this regard may be intimated to the Commission.

Yours sincerely,

(R.P. GANGURDE)

ccy:

Copy to

1. The Commission

2. The Director

3. The Secretary

- 75 -
91

ANNEXURE TO ITEM NO. 5.08.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
TO CURB THE MENACE OF RAGGING
IN UNIVERSITIES/EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS.**



**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NEW DELHI
1999**

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED BY THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION TO FRAME GUIDELINES TO CURB THE MENACE OF RAGGING IN UNIVERSITIES/EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

1. Constitution of the Committee

The University Grants Commission was made one of the respondents in a Public Interest Litigation case filed in the Supreme Court of India by the Vishwa Jagriti Mission highlighting the adverse impact of ragging of freshers in educational institutions all over the country. During the hearing of the case held on 19th July 1999, the learned Judges had indicated that it would be appropriate if the UGC assess & give a proactive view in the matter and frame guidelines with regard to curbing the menace of ragging in the universities and other educational institutions. Accordingly, the UGC constituted the following Committee to frame the guidelines in the matter:

- | | | |
|----|---|------------------|
| 1. | Prof. K.P.S. Unny,
(Former Registrar, JNU),
Dean, School of Language
& Culture Studies,
Jawahar Lal Nehru University,
New Delhi - 110067 | - Chairman |
| 2. | Dr. H. Gupta,
Principal,
Sri Ram College of Commerce,
Delhi University, Delhi | Member |
| 3. | Prof. R.P. Mehta*
Dept. of Business Studies,
Kurukshetra University,
Kurukshetra - 146119. | Member |
| 4. | Dr. R.P. Gargurde,
Additional Secretary,
University Grants Commission,
New Delhi - 110002 | Member Secretary |

Dr. (Mrs.) Parkaj Mittal, Deputy Secretary, UGC assisted the Committee in its deliberations. The Committee met on 19th September, 11th October and 29th October, 1999.

* Attached the memorandum dated 13th September, 1999.

Introduction

The word 'ragging' means the act of teasing, hurting, playing a practical joke upon someone or forcing comic parties and other activities during certain periods of a college term to raise money for charity.

Ragging has therefore, both positive and negative connotations.

Ragging could be considered positive if it is done with a desire for the following

- It aims at raising funds for charity.
- It helps ease the pent-up tensions of modest students without harming anyone.
- It helps freshmen to shake themselves out of inhibitions and inferiority complex and to smoothen their angularities.
- It helps dispelling the tedium among new students as remain isolated.
- It is fun which is enjoyable by all, including the freshmen.

But over the years the word 'ragging' ceased to denote the healthy practice it used to be and has acquired more negative connotations and notoriety. Nowadays 'ragging' may include

- Display of noisy, disorderly conduct, teasing, excitement by rough or rude treatment or handling, indulging in rowdy, undisciplined activities which cause or likely to cause annoyance, undue hardship, physical or psychological harm or raise apprehension or fear in a fresher, or asking the students to do any act or perform something which would a student will not do in the ordinary course and which causes him/her shame or embarrassment or danger to his/her life.

The Karnataka Education Act, 1983 (Karnataka Act No. 3 of 1983) Section 2(15) defines ragging as

"causing, inducing, compelling or forcing a student, whether by way of a practical joke or otherwise, to do any act which detracts from human dignity or violates his person or exposes him to ridicule or curbs him from doing any lawful act, by intimidating, wrongfully restraining, wrongfully confining, or injuring him or by using criminal force on him or by holding out to him any threat of such intimidation, wrongful restraint, wrongful confinement, injury or the use of criminal force."

It is generally observed that such perverse forms of ragging is more prevalent in professional colleges and is due mainly because of large number of students staying in hostels.

Forms of ragging

Ragging is found to take the following forms (the list is only indicative and not exhaustive)

Crisp orders

- to address seniors as 'Sir'.
- to perform menial jobs;
- to copy class notes for the seniors;
- to serve various meals;
- to do manual jobs for the seniors;
- to ask/answer vulgar questions;
- to look at pornographic pictures to shock the freshers out of their innocence;
- to force to drink alcohol, smoking etc.;
- to force to do acts with sexual overtones, including heterosexual acts;
- to force to do acts which can lead to physical injury/membership or death;
- to strip, kiss, etc.;
- to do other obscenities.

It can be seen from the above that most of them, except the first few, constitute perverse forms of ragging.

4. Causes for ragging

The main causes for indulging in ragging are:

- Eagerness of seniors to show off their power, authority, superiority,
- An attitude of backlash: a "do unto others what others did to you" (single brother-in-law Vs daughter-in-law syndrome);
- Importance the seniors get in the initial stages of admission by helping and guiding the freshers for various things in the absence of or ineffectiveness of institutional mechanism to help the freshers at the point, resulting to the freshers getting indebted to seniors and thereby feeling compelled to do their biddings.

Vulnerable locations for ragging

Ordinarily, places which are most vulnerable for ragging are

- Hostel bins and messes,
- Vacant classrooms
- Canteen,
- Stadium or playground,
- Student activity centres,
- Hostels

Causes for the increase in the incidence of ragging and ineffectiveness of measures against it.

Among the main causes, one can cite the following -

- The powers and moral authority of the Wardens and other functionaries have eroded over the years, as many of these may not be committed to their work, but take up such responsibilities for the sake of perks attached to these offices.
- Lack of interest and involvement in such matters among majority of faculty members.
- Fear that the Head of the Departments and others may be pressurised later on for withdrawal of complaints or for revocation of the orders of punishment,
- Fear that they and/or their family members may be harassed and victimised.

It must be admitted that most of these causes are the direct result of politicisation of educational institutions and the resultant erosion of standards of behaviour. If there is no political interference, the educational authorities will be able to take effective measures to curb ragging.

Existing Governmental/Institutional efforts in curbing ragging

The Committee came across a reference to a Journal Government of India Notification banning ragging in the aftermath of the death of two freshmen in a Regional Engineering College in the late 1970s. The Committee also searched the following Governments on the subject to enable it to formulate recommendations.

Ordinances regarding prevention of ragging in Colleges and Hostels, Directorate of Mysore, 1982.

The Karnataka Education Act, 1983 (Karnataka Act No.1 of 1983), Section 110 Penalty for Ragging;

Order passed by the South High Court of Madras in Case No.15374 dated 30.4.1984;

Report of the Committee constituted by the Director, U.T. D.D. to examine and make recommendations on issues related to Ragging, 1993;

The Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1991;

The Kerala Prohibition of Ragging Ordinance, 1971 (Ordinance No.14 of 1971);

Ordinance XV-C, Prohibition of and Punishment for Ragging, University of Delhi;

Booklet entitled "Ragging: Problems and Solutions", Poo Navarasa Publications, 1998.

8. Recommendations

On the basis of detailed deliberations, the UGC Committee suggests a three-pronged system to curb the menace of ragging in educational institutions, namely:

PROHIBITION - PREVENTION - PUNISHMENT SYSTEM (PPF SYSTEM)

That is, prohibition by Law, prevention by following a set of guidelines and punishment in case ragging takes place in spite of prohibition and prevention. The Committee is of the view that punishment for the offenders should be balanced by some incentives for non-offenders and those who help check the menace of ragging. The details of the PPF System is given below:

8.1. Prohibition

The Central Government and the State Governments may be requested to enact a law (wherever no such law exists) prohibiting ragging in the educational institutions, which, inter alia, should also contain provisions

to treat ragging as a cognizable offence. Since ragging in its various forms have the effect of dehumanisation of the individual, affecting his/her self-esteem, ragging should be treated three or less at par with rape and other atrocities against women. Vexatious persons belonging to reserved categories, viz. Fresh students, the other weaker sections of the society, need and deserve protection.

to identify the severe forms of ragging under the law (some of them are already included under para 2(b)(i)).

to prescribe specific punishments keeping in mind the gravity of the offence committed, providing for a maximum punishment of rigorous imprisonment upto three years, or a fine upto Rs 25000/-, or both. The educational institutions may prescribe other punishments such as suspension from classes, from the hostel, etc. (A list of possible punishments is given below in para 8.3);

to ensure that the Films Censor Boards and other agencies do not allow films to be screened with scenes which make fun of youngsters who indulge in ragging.

2. Till such time as the Governments ban ragging by law as above, the universities and other educational institutions which have so far no Ordinance or Rules for banning ragging may make such Ordinance detailing the guidelines, rules, punishments, etc. They may amend their Statutes and/or Ordinances accordingly.

8.2 Prevention

The Committee recommends the following guidelines to prevent ragging in the educational institutions.

1. Anti-ragging movement should be initiated by the institution right from the time of advertisement for admissions. The advertisement must clearly mention that ragging is banned in the institution, and anyone indulging in ragging is liable to be punished appropriately, including expulsion from the institution and/or imprisonment up to 3 years, and/or fine up to Rs 25,000/-.
2. The brochure of admission/instruction booklet for candidates must print in block letters the Prohibition of Ragging Act/Ordinance in full along with other details of punishments for ragging. It also must mention in clear terms that the institution considers ragging a cognisable offence and really means business and will not hesitate to take stern action against the offenders.
3. The application form for admission/enrolment should itself have a printed undertaking to be filled up and signed by the candidate to the effect that he/she is aware of the law regarding ragging, as well as the punishments, and that he/she, if found guilty of ragging, is liable to be punished appropriately.
4. The application form must also contain a written undertaking to be signed by the parent/guardian of the applicant stating that he/she is also aware of the law in this regard and agrees to abide by the punishment under the law in case the same is found guilty of ragging.
5. Undertaking of similar nature as in 3 and 4 above should be made mandatory in the application forms for admission to the boards as well.

5. A printed leaflet detailing when and to whom one has to turn for information, help and guidance for various purposes, addresses and telephone numbers of such persons, etc. should be given to each fresher at the time of admission, so that the freshers need not look up in the seniors for help in such matters and get indebted to them and start doing things right or wrong at their behest. This will reduce their dependence on their seniors and the latter will lose the moral authority to command.
6. The leaflet mentioned above can also tell the freshers about their rights as bona fide students of the institution, that they should resist from doing anything against their will even if ordered by the seniors, that they have nothing to fear as the institution cares for them and will not tolerate any atrocities against them.
7. A letter from the Controller of Exams./Principal/Dean of Students must be sent at the end of the academic year to the parents/guardians of the students who are getting promoted to the 2nd/3rd year informing them about the law regarding ragging and the punishments, and appealing to them to impress upon their wards to desist from indulging in ragging when the new academic session starts.
8. A similar appeal from the Dean of Students/Principal should be sent to all 2nd and 3rd year students (to be handed over to them when they come to pay the fees) at the commencement of the academic session.
9. Undertakings as in 3 and 4 above should be mandatory also at the commencement of academic session each year, that is, such undertakings should be given even by the students of 2nd and 3rd years as well as their parents/guardians. If there is no provision for filling application forms for registration at that stage (unlike for the first year admissions), the receipt for the fees paid for 2nd/3rd year should be issued only after receiving such undertakings.
10. At the commencement of the academic session the Head of the Institution (Vice-Chancellor/Dean/Principal, etc.) may address a meeting of various agencies like Wardens, representatives of students, parents/guardians, faculty, police, etc. to discuss law and order measures with an appeal to help eradicate the menace of ragging in the institution completely.
11. At the commencement of the academic session, the institution should constitute a Vigilance Committee consisting of senior faculty members, some host authorities like Wardens and a few responsible senior students to have an in-built mechanism for checking the incidence of ragging. The Committee should monitor the events involving ragging, enquire into them and make recommendations in this regard to the institutional authorities. The Committee can draw up its modalities of functioning, frequency of visits/undertakings, etc.

- 13 The common view at large and the students in particular must be made aware of the dehumanising effect of ragging inherent in its perverse form. For this, big posters (preferably in different colours for the provisions of law, punishments, etc.) should be prominently displayed on all Notice Boards of all departments, buildings/houses as well as all vulnerable places. A few of them may be of permanent nature (like the anti drug use posters in some campuses, bus-stops, etc.) These posters can also be used to send the message across that ragging is a cognisable offence and the institution reserves business and shall not fail to take strict action against the offenders. The posters may also (optionally) include the names of those punished for ragging during the previous year and the nature of punishments.
- 14 The media may be requested to give adequate publicity to the negative aspects of ragging mainly during the months of July and August every year so that public awareness and aversion can be built up against ragging.
- 15 All vulnerable locations have to be identified (for a list of a few of them, please see para 5 above), properly illuminated and minimal posters as mentioned in para 13 above put up prominently. The members of the Vigilance Committee should visit such locations frequently during the first two-three months of the academic session.
- 16 Security may be tightened in the premises of the institution, especially at the vulnerable places. If necessary, intense policing should be resorted to at these points at odd hours during the first two-three months of the academic session.
- 17 The powers of Wardens and other authorities should be suitably enhanced. Some of them may be vested with a kind of magisterial powers, so that they can take immediate action in certain situations.
- 18 The security personnel posted in hostels must be under the direct control of the Wardens and assessed by them.
- 19 A Disciplinary Committee may be set up at the institution level to consider the recommendations of the Vigilance Committee and spell out the punishments. If considered necessary, this Committee can further investigate the events, recommendations for which were brought before it.
- 20 The Head of the institution (Vice-Chancellor/Director/Principal, etc.) should take immediate action on receipt of the recommendations of the Disciplinary Committee. He can also take action on matters of the circumstances so demanded.
- 21 Teachers should be encouraged to report the ideas of ragging. Those who do not do so even when being witnesses or victims, should also be punished suitably.

22. Where the persons committing or abetting the crime of ragging are not identified, collective punishment could be resorted to as a possible deterrent measure. This would ensure community pressure on the potential culprits not to indulge in ragging.
23. For speedy disposal of cases involving ragging, the institution should continue with the disciplinary proceedings, even if a FIR has been filed and a case is pending before a court of law.
24. The Migration Certificate issued by an institution should have an entry, apart from those of general conduct and behaviour, whether the student had participated in and/or punished for the offence of ragging, or not.
25. If an institution fails to curb ragging, the UGC Funding agency should stop financial assistance to such an institution till such time as it achieves the same.
26. A university may disaffiliate a college or institution for failing to curb ragging.

Apart from the above, the institutions may think up and formulate certain positive actions and a system of incentives broadly on the following lines:

Positive actions

27. Appropriate committee(s) may be set up including the course-in-charge, student welfare, Warden and some senior students to actively monitor, promote and regulate healthy interaction between freshers and senior students.
28. The student-faculty interaction may be increased to involve the students in all matters of the institution, except in active processes of evaluation and in faculty appointments. Such involvement will make the students feel that they are responsible partners in managing the affairs of the institution, and the credit due to a institution for good work/performance is due to them as well.
29. Freshers' welcome parties may be organised soon after admissions by senior students and the faculty together, where they can be properly inducted to the studies. Such parties can bring out the leaders in the freshers without the element of indecency normally occurring during ragging. Mass participation has its own built-in checks, as an ever zealous person could often be prevailed upon by other elements in the presence of the faculty, even the misrule of ragging students, who are otherwise compulsive raggers, will be forced to behave properly and not cross the limits of decency. Inducting their leaders in the open will help the freshmen to shed their inferiority complex, receive their admissions and begin on the best of terms.

Incentives

and other activities for those who actively participate in measures for eradicating the menace of ragging. They include the following:

10. The institution should give due weightage to the contribution made by Wardens and other functionaries to the institution's administration when assessing them for higher posts. The perks for the Wardens and all such functionaries should be suitably enhanced to attract committed persons for these posts. The perks may include providing accommodation in the campus, telephone rental charges and suitable honorarium. Raised cadre status that is their due and with increased powers and perks their ability and commitment in the cause of eradicating ragging can be expected to be enhanced.
11. The institution may work out allocating some marks or grade for those students who actively helped the institutions in eradicating ragging. This may be added to the total at the end of the programme, which might change the final division to be recorded in the certificate.
12. "Good conduct" and "Not found indulging in any form of ragging" during the semester must also be one of the elements to be graded for sessional evaluation during the third and fifth semesters (i.e. during the first half of second and third years).

8.3. Penalties

The following could be the possible penalties for those who are found guilty of participation in or abetment of ragging. The quantum of punishment shall, normally, depend upon the nature and gravity of the offence as established by the Disciplinary Committee or the court of law.

1. Cancellation of admission.
2. Suspension from attending classes.
3. Withholding/withdrawing scholarship, fellowship and other benefits.
4. Debarring from appearing in any test/examination or other evaluation process.
5. Withholding results.
6. Debarring from representing the institution in any national or international meet, tournament, sports festival, etc.

Summary of the provisions

- 1. ... from the date of the ...
- 2. ... in the ... and ...
- 3. ... up to Rs 25,000
- 4. ... imprisonment up to ... years

With the ... types of punishment ... be awarded by the appropriate authority of ...

XXXXX

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ANNEXURE VIII

Parameter	AP (1997)	TN(1997)	MH(1999)	KER(1998)	WB(2000)	ASM (1998)	CH (2001)
Purpose	to prohibit ragging in educational institution.	to prohibit ragging in educational institution.	to prohibit ragging in educational institution.	to prohibit ragging in educational institution.	to prohibit ragging in educational institution.	to prohibit ragging in educational institution.	to prevent ragging
Definition of Ragging	Doing an act which causes or likely to cause insult or annoyance of fear or apprehension or threat or intimidation or outrage of modesty or injury to a student.	display of noisy or disorderly conduct or doing of any act which causes or likely to cause physical and psychological or raise apprehension of fear or shame or embarrassment to a student.	doing of any act by disorderly conduct, to a student of a educational institution which causes or is likely to cause physical or psychological harm or raising apprehension or fear or shame or embarrassment to that student.	doing of any act by disorderly conduct, to a student of a educational institution which causes or is likely to cause physical, psychological or physiological harm or raising apprehension or fear or shame or embarrassment to that student	doing of any act by disorderly conduct, to a student of a educational institution which causes or is likely to cause physical, psychological or physiological harm or raising apprehension or fear or shame or embarrassment to any student.	display of noisy or disorderly conduct or doing of any act which causes or likely to cause social, physical and psychological or raise apprehension of fear or shame or embarrassment to any student.	Causing, inducing, compelling or forcing a student by way of a practical joke or otherwise to do any act which detracts from human dignity or violates his person or exposes him to ridicule or forbear from doing any unlawful act intimidating, wrongfully restraining, wrongfully confining and injuring him or holding out to him any threat or such intimidation, wrongful restraints, wrongful confinement, injury or the use of criminal force.
Scheme of Prevention		sec3 prohibits ragging.	sec 3 prohibits ragging	sec 3 prohibits ragging.	sec3 prohibits ragging	sec. 3 prohibits ragging.	sec.3 prohibits ragging.
Institutional Mechanism/ Official	Head or Manager in case of <i>prima facie</i>	Head or Manager in case of <i>prima facie</i>	Head in case of <i>prima facie</i>	Head in case of <i>prima facie</i>	Head or Manager	Head in case of <i>prima facie</i>	Head in case of case of <i>prima facie</i> & Magistrate of the First Class
Appellate form	Not Mentioned	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Committee constituted by the state government whose decision shall be final.	Commissioner or Secretary to Govt of Assam	Not mentioned

<p>Penalty (a) offender (b) Institution</p>	<p>(a) from imprisonment up to 6 months or fine or Rs 1000 or both to imprisonment up to 10 yrs and fine upto Rs 50000. (b) Same as in (a) for head or manager in case of default.</p>	<p>imprisonment upto 2 yrs and fine upto Rs 10000; dismissal from educational institution and denial of admission in any other educational institution for a period of 2 yrs from the date of order of such dismissal; suspension. (b) Same as in (a) for head or manager in case of default.</p>	<p>(a) imprisonment upto 2 yrs and fine upto Rs 10000; dismissal from educational institution and denial of admission in any other educational institution for a period of 5 yrs from the date of order of such dismissal; suspension. (b) Same as in (a) for head or manager in case of default.</p>	<p>(a) imprisonment upto 2 yrs and fine upto Rs 10000; dismissal from educational institution and denial of admission in any other educational institution for a period of 3 yrs from the date of order of such dismissal; suspension. (b) Same as in (a) for head or manager in case of default.</p>	<p>(a) imprisonment upto 2 yrs and fine upto Rs 5000; dismissal from educational institution and debarred from the re-admission in the same institution. (b) not mentioned</p>	<p>(a) from imprisonment upto six months or fine upto Rs 10,000 or both; expulsion or rustication for not less than one academic session. (b) In accordance with the rule of the government for the time being in force.</p>	<p>(a) Imprisonment upto 5 yrs or fine upto Rs 5000 (b) Not mentioned</p>
<p>Nature of offence</p>	<p>teasing; embarrassing; humiliation; assault; using criminal force; wrongful confinement; wrongful restraint, causing grievous hurt; kidnapping; abduction, rape; causing death; abetting suicide.</p>	<p>as in the definition and including teasing; abusing; playing practical jokes; causing heart, coercion into wrongful acts.</p>	<p>as in the definition and including teasing; abusing; playing practical jokes; causing heart, coercion into wrongful acts.</p>	<p>as in the definition and including teasing; abusing; playing practical jokes; causing heart, coercion into wrongful acts.</p>	<p>as in the definition and including teasing; abusing; playing practical jokes; causing heart, coercion into wrongful acts.</p>	<p>Committing, participating, abetting propogating, teasing, abusing, playing practical jokes, causing heart, coercing in wrongful acts.</p>	<p>As given in the definition</p>
<p>Whether Compoundable</p>	<p>Not mentioned</p>	<p>Not mentioned</p>	<p>Not mentioned</p>	<p>Not mentioned</p>	<p>Not mentioned</p>	<p>yes, but bailable.</p>	<p>Cognisable, non-bailable, non-compoundable</p>
<p>Whether Rules Notified</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Not mentioned</p>	<p>Not mentioned</p>	<p>Not mentioned</p>	<p>Not mentioned</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>

ANNEXURE IX

Reported Ragging Cases

This section lists down cases reported in the media since 1998.

Ⓢ These cases have been taken from online archives of leading newspapers

Ⓢ CURE is not responsible for the authenticity of these incidents

Ⓢ The dates are those of the news reports and may not be the same as that of the incident

SI No.	Year & Date	College	Brief Description of the Incident
1	24-Jul-98	School of Architecture, Ahmedabad	Opposition staged a walkout of the Legislative Assembly protesting against the recent incidents of ragging in the college
2	5-Aug-1998	The Sophia College, Mumbai	Indu Anto (16), an eleventh standard arts student residing in the Sophia College hostel on Peddar Road, jumped to her death from the terrace of the two-storeyed building.
3	21-Aug-1998	Government Polytechnic College, Kangra	3 first year students were assaulted by their seniors in the name of ragging.
4	5-Sep-1998	D.Y. Patil College of Engineering, Pune	A 17 year old boy was stripped and sexually abused.
5	9-Oct-1998	Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Patiala	Terrorised by ragging and the threat of another dose the next day led to the fracturing of both the legs of Ajaypal after he fell down from his room's roof following a bout of giddiness.
6	16-Oct-1998	GMC, Patiala	Things turned violent when a group of pharmacy students tried to rag a third year MBBS student taking him to be a fresher. Humiliated, the latter returned with his friends, leading to a group clash. 2 injured.
7	7-Nov-1998	Institute of Nursing, Mangalore	Five juniors were stripped and sexually harrassed and asked to shave off body hair. Later the seniors used cigarette butts to burn visible traces of hair. A junior who disobeyed was made to run around with a rope tied to his genitals.
8	1-Dec-1998	Sri Venkateshwara Polytechnic	Unable to bear the ragging and after being forced to have unnatural sex with fellow students, Krishna Naik tried

		Tirupati	committing suicide by jumping before a train. He was saved by a RPF personnel. His arm is severed.
9	24-Aug-1999	Punjab University	Police arrests 3 seniors on charges of ragging.
10	31-Aug-1999	Punjab University	2 students involved in beating and harassing 11 juniors have been suspended.
11	11-Oct-1999	Institute of Engineering and Technology, Lucknow	Amit left the college after facing a MONTH long ordeal of ragging where among other things he had to do 100 sit ups, bow in front of a senior etc. He was also beaten up severely one day after which he fainted.
12	15-Oct-1999	Punjab Engineering College, Chandigarh	Gaurav Sachdeva, third year, suspended for ragging juniors.
13	3-Nov-1999	PEC, Chandigarh	PEC has rusticated one student and fined others who had indulged in ragging 4 juniors both mentally and physically
14	1-Dec-1999	Cochin University	2 students have been suspended for ragging a junior student.
15	6-Jan-2000	Ayurvedic College, Parpola	SFI expresses concern over the "inhuman" ragging of students.
16	23-Jan-2000	Ravenshaw College, Cuttack	The victim, daughter of CPM leader, remained senseless for over two hours after being ragged by senior girls but was neither hospitalised nor any complained lodged with the police.
17	1-Feb-2000	Ravenshaw College, Cuttack	3 students have been expelled and four others punished for their involvement in ragging.
18	8-Aug-2000	Hotel management, Kerala	9 seniors arrested on charges of ragging.
19	16-Aug-2000	Sri Krishna Arts and Science College, Keezhambi(near Kancheepuram)	Deepa (18), a first year student of microbiology committed suicide by self-immolation. In her dying declaration, Deepa named three seniors (one girl), as forcing her to sing lewd songs. When she sulked and protested, the seniors asked her to dance nude.
20	26-Aug-2000	Guru Gobind Singh Medical College, Amritsar	Principal constitutes a committee of five doctors to probe into the ragging charges.
21	3-Sep-2000	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi	Honhar Singh Meena, a first year MBBS student was severely ragged in the undergraduate students hostel. He was beaten up, forced to drink alcohol and harrassed by the seniors.

22	16-Sep-2000	Indira gandhi Medical College, Shimla	Students seek the intervention of the state's CM for strict enforcement of anti-ragging law
23	15-Dec-2000	Hyderabad	T. Sarita who had consumed poison after she was ragged, died in the hospital.
24	27-Jan-2001	Karnataka medical college, Bijapur(Karnataka)	A girl and a boy were made to strip by senior students and locked up in one room for three days without food or water when they refused to have sex.
25	4-Apr-2001	AM Sheikh Homeopathy Medical College, Mumbai	Nilesh Dubey, first year, was stabbed by his 3 seniors SEVEN times over a period of 3 months.
26	24-Apr-2001	Engineering College, Vijaywada	Seniors kidnapped and assaulted a fresher.
27	25-Apr-2001	Medical College, Kangra	The management issued notices to senior students for vacating their hostel on charges of ragging.
28	1-May-2001	Medical College run by SGPC	Fine levied on minister's son for ragging second year students.
29	2-May-2001	Medical college in Kangra district, Himachal	12 freshers were ragged & assaulted allegedly.
30	11-May-2001	Dr. Rajendra Prasad Medical College, Dharamsala	Revoking the rustriation of 33 students for their involvement in ragging, the authorities said that their behaviour would be on probation for a year.
31	25-May-2001	Koneru Lakshmaih College of Engineering, Vijaywada	Rajeev Krishna was kidnapped by 6 senior students. He was saved by some mutta workers who saw the group assaulting Rajeev and came to his rescue.
32	20-Jul-2001	Ramjas College, DU, Delhi	In a teacherless class when the seniors asked a boy to propose to a girl, he refused saying it was against his values resulting in a scuff between the boy and the seniors.
33	26-Jul-2001	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	5 students have been fined and expelled from the hostel after being found guilty of ragging.
34	4-Aug-2001	A hotel management institute, GOA	Shailender Agarwal was ragged by his seniors, 4 boys and 2 girls. He left the institute.
35	9-Aug-2001	IHMCT, Panaji	Victim leaves institute. 8 students arrested and later released on bail.
36	9-Aug-2001	Institute of Hotel Management and	The principal lodged a complaint of ragging with the police.

Catering Technology, Madurai			
37	15-Aug-2001	Parmar University	3 students expelled over a ragging incident.
38	23-Aug-2001	Government Medical College, Madurai	A written complaint was filed by a first year after he was brutally ragged by some final year students.
39	28-Aug-2001	College of Architecture, Chandigarh	Students protest against defamatory reports given by a first year student from the North East who left the college without informing anyone.
40	29-Aug-2001	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana	The PAU has taken action against 15 students involved in various ragging incidents.
41	30-Aug-2001	Women's Polytechnic College, Raipur	Sujata Tiwari had been forced to leave the city just three days after she enrolled for a computer science course. Her seniors in the hostel allegedly stripped and forced her to pose upside down for more than two hours, resulting in severe bleeding from her nose.
42	30-Aug-2001	Haryana Agricultural University Hisar	Dress code introduced for first year by the seniors so as to easily spot them, defiance of which leads to strict punishment.
43	31-Aug-2001	CEMK, Midnapore	Somnath's seniors told him to consume 3 boiled potatoes in one go. When he failed to do so, he was pinned down by some while others forced the potatoes into his mouth. Later they took him to the pond and forced him to be in water for an hour. That night another group of students came and bet him up. the same ordeal was repeated the next day and didnt stop till he reported a high fever.
44	13-Sep-2001	Veterinary Sciences, HAU, Hisar	3 students suspended on charges of ragging.
45	20-Sep-2001	Sainik School, Lucknow	35 class VIIIth students fled from the school and went to their homes. The parents said that this was due to the fact that the children were being brutally ragged and harassed. The children also named 4 seniors.
46	22-Sep-2001	Government Polytechnic College,	3 senior students entered the hostel room of juniors in a drunken state and force them to strip. While one of the victims

		Hisar	left the hostel, the others complained to the warden who banned the entry of the seniors.
47	1-Oct-2001	Kurukshetra University, Hisar	Tormented and tortured by her seniors in the name of ragging, Anuja has left the hostel and returned to her home.
48	2-Oct-2001	Baroda Medical College, Vadodara	The freshers were made to do vulgar acts by the seniors. The latter fled when the police was called in.
49	6-Oct-2001	Rajah Muthiah Medical College, Chennai	Navarasu was allegedly murdered by David in a ragging incident in 1996.
50	27-Oct-2001	Trivandrum	Neeraj Gupta was forced to strip behind the bushes and subjected to sexual abuse for nearly 2 hours after which he was hospitalised.
51	22-Nov-2001	Gandhi Medical College, Hyderabad	According to police sources, 5 senior students forced the 1st year girls to undress at the Necklace Road and blow kisses to them while the boys were asked for oral sex.
52	23-Nov-2001	Osmania University, Hyderabad	Vamsi Krishna, first year, was found crying in the campus after the seniors tried to sexually abuse him.
53	5-Dec-2001	Agricultural College, Mahanandi(AP)	some senior students had organised a get-together in the hostel. Some students, in an inebriated condition, forced Govardhan to strip and perform dirty acts, he said, adding that he was even sodomised. He later committed suicide
54	23-Dec-2001	Sir CRR Reddy Engineering College, Eluru	A case of ragging in which a second year Dalit student was allegedly ragged took a nasty turn when it led to a caste fight between the upper and the lower caste students.
55	24-Dec-2001	Kolkata, WB	Political Parties clash over issue of ragging.
56	7-Jan-2002	Government Polytechnic College, Vijaywada	6 second year students used to harass a first year by asking him to fetch drinking water and arrange bathing water.
57	20-Apr-2002	Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Madikeri	Jayakrishna of std. VIII was punched and beaten up with bamboo sticks by 9 second year students. He has suffered grievous injuries and all this because of his denial to wash clothes for them.

58	25-May-2002	EVR College, Chennai	When Azhagarsamy intervened in a ragging incident on behalf of student relative Ramesh and met fellow seniors, he got into an altercation with them. The latter repeatedly stabbed Azhagarsamy.
59	1-Jul-2002	Ramjas College, DU, Delhi	When Arun Tyagi prevented other students from ragging freshers, he was beaten up with hockey sticks.
60	20-Jul-2002 <i>(incident occurred in 2000)</i>	MLN Medical College, Allahabad	When Harsh Agrawal asked about a friend who happened to be a senior, little did he know that he had 'violated a cardinal rule'. He was forced to strip and was tortured for over 2 hours. He had had enough when the seniors tried to burn his private parts. He told his parents who in turn apprised the principal.
61	26-Jul-2002	ITS, Lucknow	Ex-student, Vishal Singh along with 5 associated barged into the institute and began harassing the girls in the name of ragging. When the teachers intervened, he began threatening and abusing the teachers.
62	31-Jul-2002	Palani Andavar College for Men, Palani	Three students were dismissed on charges of ragging. Students boycotted classes protesting the failure to contain ragging.
63	1-Aug-2002	G.B. Pant Engineering College, Uttaranchal	Atleast 100 freshers left the college hostel for fear of being assaulted by the seniors.
64	10-Aug-2002	Kurukshetra University, Karnal	Students protest against ragging.
65	28-Aug-2002	Patiala	Sikh boy falsely accuses a second year of forcing to get the former's hair cut to escape parents' wrath.
66	29-Aug-2002	Katwa College, WB	Soumen santra was woken up in the night and made to climb the stairs up and down without a break with beedis and cigarette all over him
67	1-Sep-2002	IET Lucknow	Anup Kapoor, a 19-year-old first year engineering student committed suicide by hanging himself from a ceiling fan at his house. He had returned home from his institute in Lucknow following sexual harassment and mental torture by his seniors.

68	16-Sep-2002	GITAM Engineering College, Visakhapatnam	7 students stripped naked a first year and pushed him around. He was later taken to a room where he was shown some blue films and asked to copy the acts. When he resisted, he was burnt with cigarette butts and smoke blown into his nose and eyes.
69	22-Sep-2002	Institute of Management, Ghaziabad	Mohd. Arif, guilty of reporting a ragging incident to the authorities had to pay the price for it by giving up his life after the seniors mercilessly bet him for the same.
70	7-Oct-2002	Durgapur Regional Engineering College	3 students were suspended for 6 months after reports came in from juniors that they had been ragged.
71	29-Nov-2002	Santosh Medical College, Ghaziabad	8 students were arrested for allegedly ragging a first year student.
72	6-Feb-2003	Rashtriya Ayurvedic Mahavidyalaya Lucknow	When peon SK Shukla forced the juniors to come out of their respective rooms for mass ragging, Awdhesh, a second year student intervened. Shukla and the seniors accompanying him left only to return later in the night with sticks and rods, leaving Awdhesh injured.
73	19-Feb-2003	Nursing College, Trivandrum	4 girls have dropped out of the college on grounds of being ragged by seniors and harassed by college officials. In a petition to The President of India, they have described what all they were asked/made to do.
74	25-Feb-2003	Bhubaneswar College	Saptarishi, fresher, was made to polish shoes, play masseurs and regularly beaten up. The situation became worse when he moved in with 4 freshers to a private mess. There after forcing him to admit that he was a thief and asking him to sign a confession, his 'friends' also forced him to sign a blank cheque and withdrew Rs. 2900/- from his account. His confession was circulated in the class and he was again beaten up. He tried committing suicide.
75	17-Mar-2003	Government Medical College, Anantapur, Hyderabad	A second year student hanged himself after he was threatened by seniors. In the suicide note found, he has named 6 seniors as responsible for his

			death.
76	12-Apr-2003	Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Ettiah	Sanjay, class Xth, was found hanging inside a class room. In February, sanjay and his batchmates had gone to meet the DM to protest against the ragging prevalent.
77	23-Jul-2003	ILS, Pune	Customary friendly introduction session blown out of proportion. Students protest against the expulsion.
78	1-Aug-2003	Ajmer Polytechnic	A second year student was arrested on charges of ragging. He was later released on bail.
79	1-Aug-2003	Army Institute of Technology, Pune	Gaurav Malhotra had to return to his parents in Chandigarh after he was sexually harassed by his seniors.
80	1-Aug-2003	Pune	Victims said that a group of 6-8 seniors ragged them. To top it, the principal told them not to publicise the incident.
81	7-Aug-2003	Jalpaiguri Medical College, Kolkata, WB	When a first year tried to escape the room where the seniors were ragging, his throat and whole body was slashed with knives, fingers stamped on and face punched at. He has been hospitalised.
82	7-Aug-2003	Hindu College, DU, Delhi	Vinayak Natarajan, first year, was stripped and ragged.
83	10-Aug-2003	CSMMU, Lucknow	Panic struck the first year girls hostel when they were asked to come to the seniors with a bottle of glucose to attend a birthday party after midnite. The freshers were made to sit in a cock-like position as it was a 'physical exercise' The girls later called their parents who made anonymous calls to the district administrative officials. The latter conducted surprise inspections of hostels.
84	17-Aug-2003	IIT-D, Delhi	Topper Raj Purohit was harassed by seniors.
85	20-Aug-2003	Shaheed Captain Vikram Batra Government Degree College Dharamsala	When a group of students objected ragging, it led to a verbal duel which turned violent when the accused stabbed those who were objecting.

86	21-Aug-2003	Punjab University	Authorities rusticated a student and punished five others for ragging juniors in two cases last month.
87	26-Aug-2003	SV University College, Tirupati	15 inmates of the College hostel for men have been asked to vacate the hostel on the charges of ragging.
88	29-Aug-2003	KNMIET, Ghaziabad	The police resorted to lathi charge after a dozen freshers were injured by the rioting seniors.
89	29-Aug-2003	RKGIT, Ghaziabad	The police were called in after 70 seniors who were suspended for ragging and vandalism, resisted being sent home
90	29-Aug-2003	BIST, Bhopal	Ragging led to the loss of both arms and a leg of a fresher
91	31-Aug-2003	Punjab University	6 juniors roaming were asked to reach the campus. They were then taken to an open space and ragged till about 2:30 in the morning. In the afternoon they were asked to bring paranthas.
92	1-Sep-2003	Chaudhary Charan Singh University	A minor tiff over a ragging incident turned into a caste-based battlefield.
93	1-Sep-2003	BITS, Ranchi	Parmeshwar, a student committed suicide by hanging himself to the ceiling fan. Though it is not confirmed, students claim that Parmeshwar was depressed due to ragging.
94	1-Sep-2003	Madan Mohan Engineering College, Gorakhpur	A first year B. Tech student, Sushil Kumar Pandey committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling fan following severe ragging.
95	1-Sep-2003	Topiwala Nair Medical College & Hospital, Mumbai	Pranali Dhanvijay commits suicide. Her uncle said that, "just five days after she joined the course, she called up from Mumbai and told her mother that her seniors had made her life miserable." He feels that ragging is the cause for the death.
96	2-Sep-2003	BMC, Ahmedabad	Many freshers over the past 2 years have been leaving the college after being ragged by their seniors. Only last year a few seniors were caught red-handed and their residency terminated for 6 months.
97	4-Sep-2003	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	4 senior students caught ragging have been told to vacate the boys hostel. A fine of Rs. 5000 has also been imposed.

98	4-Sep-2003	Chittaranjan National Medical College, Kolkata, WB	Seniors ragged some second and first years through the night, beating them up and forcing them to strip.
99	6-Sep-2003	Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, WB	A fresher who was brutally ragged by seniors could have been saved had the ISI followed the SC directive. They implemented it now.
100	20-Sep-2003	Haldia Institute of Technology, Haldia	9 students have been expelled and 7 fined after a ragging incident. All 18 have been told to leave the hostel.
10	24-Sep-2003	HAU, Hisar	Students protested against the suspension of 11 students for their alleged involvement in ragging.
102	1-Oct-2003	Sir Syed College, Kannur	8 students have been booked under the Prevention of Ragging Act for roughing up 2 girls.
103	10-Oct-2003	MVJ College of Engineering, Bangalore	Three students have been debarred from attending college and have been removed from the college hostel on charge of ragging a first year. The committee formed has been asked to submit a report at the earliest.
104	29-Oct-2003	Kolaghat Engineering College, WB	Second year student expelled and 4 others suspended on charge of manhandling juniors.
105	8-Nov-2003	Dhadka Polytechnic College, Asansol	Reuben Thoudam of Imphal, a first year student fled the college because he was beaten and forced to walk naked during his ragging.
106	11-Nov-2003	ILS, Pune	On 18 July, 10 seniors had told the juniors to come to the formers' room to ask the latter about their background. The college expelled the seniors on charge that they were harassing the juniors. The Mumbai HC upheld the decision
107	17-Dec-2003	Noor College of Engineering and Technology in Kammadanam and Shadnagar (Mahbubnagar DT.)	On December 17, three second year students and two outsiders, allegedly ragged three girls some distance away from the campus. Students passing by interfered and with the help of some locals, beat up the youngsters and handed them over to the probationary SI, Rama Devi, at the Shadnagar police station. The students belonged to the Noor College of Engineering and Technology in Kammadanam.

108	7-Jan-2004	Bilaspur Medical College, Bilaspur Chhattisgarh	A first year MBBS student, Lokesh Yadav committed suicide by hanging himself from a ceiling fan after being allegedly ragged by senior students.
109	5-Mar-2004	Government Medical College	Gagandeep Ghuman was injured because he had prevented his juniors from ragging freshers.
110	31-Mar-2004	Lucknow	The MFA 2nd years called the BFA freshers and asked them to strip and perform obscene acts with each other. One victim went and reported to his elder brother, Ganesh, in MFA 1st year, who reported the matter to the authority. The accused thrashed Ganesh.
111	14-Apr-2004	Calcutta University	Niladri Das was mentally tortured for four nights on the trot and was even subjected to regular beatings.
112	1-Jun-2004	XLRI, Jamshedpur	Things turned nasty in XLRI when some senior boys tried to misbehave with the junior girls. A sense of resentment and terror had gripped the campus. The students were also angry at the indifferent attitude of the authorities.
113	1-Jul-2004	BIT	A young boy fearing ragging and in order to escape it, hid under a goods train. The train suddenly started moving resulting in the loss of both his arms and a leg.
114	1-Jul-2004	Rajkiya Gobind Ballabh Pant Polytechnic	3 students were critically injured when their seniors brutally assaulted them. The injured had dared to oppose ragging in the college. All the 3 have been hospitalised.
115	4-Jul-2004	Ayurvedic Medical College, Pune	5 people involved in a ragging incident in the year 2002 have been sentenced to 6 months imprisonment.
116	18-Jul-2004	International School of Business and Media	Two students have been expelled for misconduct after an inquiry into a ragging incident.
117	19-Jul-2004	Sri Dhanwantry Ayurvedic College, Chandigarh	Students protested against the suspension of two senior students for their involvement in ragging. The principal suspended them after they were caught red-handed
118	29-Jul-2004	Chandigarh	A girl had been ragged by boys and not being able to stomach the upfront and the want of getting back at the boys,

			guards of MLA Ashok Sharma came and bet them up.
119	1-Aug-2004	Guru Nanak Dev College	Senior students fined for ragging juniors by the Principal.
120	6-Aug-2004	NIFT, Mohali	7 senior girls were suspended after the authorities received a complaint of ragging from a first year.
121	10-Aug-2004	Law college, Jalandhar	4 first year girls were subjected to ragging by their seniors.
122	12-Aug-2004	Hotel management College, Mangalore	Parents of Smit Fernandes have removed him from the college and decided to discontinue his studies and of Manav Singh, of whom they were guardians, because both of them were ragged. Smit's father said that the college was not ready to solve the issue amicably. He has also lodged a complaint with the police.
123	13-Aug-2004	KMC, DU, Delhi	2 students expelled from hostel on charges of ragging till the end of second term.
124	17-Aug-2004	MIT, Manipal	Ehsan Saba was beaten badly by the seniors and he was thrown into the sea to hush up the matter.
	27-Aug-2004	Delhi University, Delhi	2 suspended from Hansraj and 3 from KMC for ragging.
125	1-Sep-2004	Indreprastha College, Ghaziabad	Seniors and freshrs clashed in the college following an altercation over ragging.
126	10-Sep-2004	Indraprasth Engineering College, Ghaziabad	Students protested against the principal as the latter had slapped a second year student for engaging in ragging.
127	12-Sep-2004	College of Textile Technology, Baharampur	Mrinal Biswas suffered head injury as a result of ragging.
128	30-Sep-2004	NIT, Durgapur	Swadesh Sarkar has been arrested on grounds of repeatedly ragging Himangshu, first year.
129	9-Oct-2004	Hoogly Institute of Technology	Shayari Majumdar was forced to kiss a senior boy on the pretext of ragging. The accused, SFI members, also forced her to consume alcohol and smoke.
130	1-Nov-2004	Oriental College	The junior boys were slapped hard on the cheeks while the girls were asked to make propositions to the boys in a

			lewd manner.
131	1-Nov-2004	Mahakal Institute of Technology Ujjain	Some senior students made a first year strip and dance in group.
132	4-Nov-2004	Government Hotel Management and Catering Institute, Dehradun	19-year old student jumped off the third floor of the institute building after he was ragged. He has sustained injuries but is stable now.
133	14-Nov-2004	Engineering College, Anantapur	Ravi attempted suicide by consuming sleeping pills.
134	30-Nov-2004	Siliguri	Rehman, first year, was paraded naked and pricked by a live wire by his seniors.
135	19-Dec-2004	S K R Engineering College, Poonamalle	Mohan Karthik a first year engineering student committed suicide after he was humiliated by his seniors, who allegedly made him bath with his urine.
136	10-Jan-2005	J J School of Architecture, Mumbai	Punit Gupta, a first year student, filed a police complaint against a senior after he was beaten up and made to recite obscene sentences on two separate occasions.
137	29-Jan-2005	Navy Training Institute, Lonawla	The Navy launched an inquiry into an extreme case of ragging where the engineering cadets had multiple fractures in the legs.
138	1-Feb-2005	All Saints Technical Institute	Seniors ragged juniors just to prove how ineffective the curbs on ragging were.
139	21-Mar-2005	Timkur	8 students assaulted Rajiv Kumar, first year. The next day, 6 of Rajiv's classmates were beaten up with iron rods and sickles
140	30-Jun-2005	Guhawati Commerce College	Navneet was extorting between Rs 200 and Rs 400 from each fresher.
141	1-Jul-2005	Dhamtari	6 students have been arrested on charges of ragging the juniors.
142	2-Jul-2005	Hotel management of a private institute, Kalyani, Nadia district, West Bengal	According to the family members Kamlesh Sarkar (19) was a victim of ragging in the institute, he came home three months ago, but he was reluctant to return to the institute. Police said no complaints about ragging was lodged. However, an unnatural death case has been registered.
143	16-Jul-2005	Benaras Hindu University	Kaushlendra Pratap stood naked and passed vulgar comments. While the authorities dismissed it as a case of

			hereditary mental disorder, the relatives said it was a result of ragging.
144	20-Jul-05 & 21-Sep-05	King George's Medical University, Lucknow	MBBS student Ayushman Shukla of B-6 batch complained of being ragged while returning from his classes. He had suffered serious injuries after being beaten up by his seniors. On September 19, a student of the 2003-batch was caught sneaking into a juniors' hostel (Trans-Gomti hostel). He, along with, two others were trying to enter the hostel when the security guard at the hostel caught them. While two of them fled, Azad Singh was held.
145	21-Jul-2005	Engineering college in Raipur, Chattisgarh	Junior paraded naked.
146	25-Jul-2005	LD Arts College, Ahmedabad	Infighting between groups of student over ragging.
147	3-Aug-2005	PGIMS, Rohtak	3 students were suspended on charges of ragging.
148	5-Aug-2005	Ayurvedic and Unani Tibbia College Delhi	Abhishek Tiwari from Patna and Riyaz from Madhya Pradesh were asked to sing, dance and then strip in the hostel at night, they were asked to masturbate while their seniors allegedly took photographs with camera phones. Finally asked to parade naked to girls hostel (11 to 230).
149	6-Aug-2005	IIPS	Two seniors have been suspended on the suspicion of ragging juniors when a surprise visit by the anti-ragging cell resulted in the discovery of 9 juniors in their room.
150	19-Aug-2005	Telaiya Sainik School, Hazaribagh	Saurabh Kumar, class XII, was sent back home in the presence of police on the pretext of ragging Anand Kumar of class X.
151	24-Aug-2005	Jalpaiguri Polytechnique Institute, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal	Indranil Mukherjee severely ragged and returns home injured.

152	26-Aug-2005	Ashok Technological Institute (SATI)	<p>Driven to near insanity, he now spends most of his time in the isolation ward of a local hospital. Raja shudders while recounting his first term in college. He had to suffer hundreds of slaps and public abuse by senior students for almost six months. Requests to be pardoned only heightened his woes and he instead of disclosing his torture, endured it silently till he lost his sanity. His dreams of earning an engineering degree has been replaced by an acute desire for vengeance. "I will not let them get away with it," he keeps on repeating every time images of two senior students flash through his mind. When not in hospital, Raja is confined round-the-clock in a small room of his Rohtas Nagar house. He is undergoing extensive psychological treatment.</p>
153	27-Aug-2005	SSKM Hospital	<p>The accused called freshers to his room and made them do menial work. Those who refused were "punished".</p> <p>"Many of the freshers were spending sleepless nights due to continuous ragging. Even some were attending classes and staying away from the hostel and spending nights at the railway station to evade ragging and bullying by their seniors in the hostel", Anirudh Pradhan, was beaten up, subjected to humiliating situations continuously for nearly a week and driven to a state of shock and speechlessness that warranted treatment by a psychiatrist. The complaint said some third year students, often in a drunken state, continually harassed Pradhan with objectionable questions for around 10 days. Pradhan was beaten up when he protested. Pradhan was sent for treatment to a local hospital after his family came to know about his problems. After diagnosis, doctors found Pradhan completely dumb. However, he is recovering slowly, said doctors.</p>
154	29-Aug-05	Ravenshaw Autonomous College, Cuttack, Orissa	<p>"They asked if I was a first year M tech student, when I said yes, they slapped me and kept saying that we only introduced ourselves in the department and not to them. The window was open and they pushed me out of it and after that I don't remember anything," said Alam. Alam was not the only one. Other students living on the same floor were also dragged out one by one and beaten up.</p>
155	31-Aug-2005	Dr Hraisingh Gaur University Sagar	

156	6-Sep-2005	Patliputra Medical College, Dhanbad	Aatish, second year, had slapped an attempt to murder charge on fourth year Aditya and fresher Arvind. Authorities claim the feud started over the issue of ragging in the hostel.
157	9-Sep-2005	Siliguri Institute of Technology, WB	Ragging incident reported.
158	14-Sep-2005	Nizam College, Hyderabad	Altercation between groups over girl's ragging. One group attacks and injures other group.
159	26-Sep-2005	Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur	7 seniors have been rusticated for ragging the freshers, after being caught red-handed.
160	1-Oct-2005	Hoshangabad	A youth belonging to the SC community was severely thrashed by residents of the hostel. A FIR has been filed but the police have not been able to arrest the accused.
161	11-Oct-2005	Dr B. R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar	Amit Kumar commits suicide by jumping in front of train ("They are made naked and ordered to do bad things").
162	19-Oct-2005	Private university Campus, Dehradun (University of Petroleum and Energy Studies)	A group of nearly 25 senior students barged into the class room of first year students of the university and after bolting the room from inside, asked the juniors to strip in the presence of girl students whom they forced to remain seated, police said. When the juniors resisted, the seniors started beating them up and threatened them of dire consequences if they did not oblige. 5 student hospitalised
163	3-Nov-2005	Bapatla Engineering College, Ongole	K. Alexander consumed pesticide in his house. The father lodged a complaint with the police stating that it was due to ragging.
164	9-Nov-2005	Amritsar College of Engineering	Harkirat was shot at by his seniors for resisting ragging.
165	13-Nov-2005	KGMU, Lucknow	20 MBBS students were kidnapped by seniors and taken to a place near Tile Wall masjid. They were beaten up and asked to strip.
166	15-Nov-2005	Lucknow	Altercation between two groups over ragging. 6 students injured.
167	17-Nov-2005	Sankaracharya Sanskrit University, Kalady	Senior harassed a junior girl 'mentally' and threatened her not to reveal the incident to others. There was drastic change in her blood pressure and she had to seek medical aid immediately after the incident.

168	18-Nov-2005	Kallai AWH College	Abhilash Praburaj, 17, from Thrissur, was admitted to the Beach Hospital after he was beaten up by the seniors. He was a first-year BSc student of physiotherapy, Abhilash was allegedly beaten by his seniors during the Physiotherapy festival organised by the college at a hotel here on Wednesday.
169	22-Nov-2005	School of Medical Education, Kottayam	Rape of a first year BSc nursing student.
170	25-Nov-2005	Kakatiya University, Warangal	Senior girl students caught ragging their juniors in hostel by the college principal and the hostel warden.
171	5-Dec-2005	Biotechnology institute in Hyderabad	Student commits suicide due to ragging.
172	7-Dec-2005	Central Polytechnic, Vattiyookavu, Thiruvantapuram	Nithin, who was partially deaf and a heart patient, was forced by the senior students to imitate certain pornographic postures. He was also beaten up by the senior students. Nithin was hospitalised following the incident.
173	9-Dec-2005	Andhra Pradesh Social Welfare Residential Junior College and School at Lakshminarasapuram in Anaparthi Mandal	Seniors beat up two juniors injuring one of them in the spine and fracturing the hand of another.
174	15-Dec-2005	Hyderabad	C. Abraham was found hanging at his residence. While the mother says that its due to ragging, the police on the basis of a suicide note found say that its due to his lack of interest in studies.
175	16-Dec-2005	CUSAT, Kochi	Parents complain that senior students had assaulted their son on several occasions.
176	12-Feb-2006	Smriti College of Pharmacy, Indore	Three students who went to the principal to complain about ragging were beaten up by the principal himself on the pretext of raising their voice against ragging. The students have accused the principal of manhandling them. One of the students became unconscious and had to be hospitalised.
177	11-May-2006	Government Polytechnic College, Indore	A first year student was beaten black and blue by the seniors on the pretext of ragging.

178	1-Jul-2006	Visva Bharati, Santiniketan	Their victim is a first-year undergraduate arts student of Sangeet Bhavan. She was allegedly forced into group sex by some of her roommates and an outsider in the hostel. By the time she was released, the girl was in a state of physical and mental trauma. Later she was hospitalised for her treatment and under unconsciousness she kept saying, "I'm not a thief, I'm not a fallen girl," said the victim's local guardian, Amita Hazra.
179	1-Jul-2006	Delhi Public School, R.K. Puram,	Deepak Sharma and his friend were told to lift eggs with their buttocks.
180	21-Jul-2006	Bhavan VM Public School, Baroda	A class VIII student packed his bags and went home complaining of ragging and verbal abuse.
181	28-Jul-2006	Sadra Centre, Gujarat	First year Microbiology students were asked to strip, oil put on their backs and branded as cattle with seniors putting their signature on them
182	1-Aug-2006	Vidyanagar	Sanoy and Sanjay Giri, both third year students of Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Durgabhai Deshmukh Colony near Osmania University were allegedly stabbed to death by Naveen Kumar, a first year B.SC. HHA student of the same institute at their friends' flat at TRT Quarters.
183	8-Aug-2006	Patna, Bihar	Ragging at Patna Science College got out of hand when the bodyguard of Patna University Proctor opened fire at the students involved in harassing new students, injuring two in the process
184	20-Aug-2006	Durgapur	A first year engineering student was beaten up and forced to kneel down for over two hours by his seniors at the National Institute of Technology, Durgapur.
185	21-Aug-2006	Uttaranchal	Sonia Singh has alleged sexual harassment by seniors
186	28-Aug-2006	Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal	Bwenyhunloo, a fourth semester student was found hanging in his hostel room. According to sources, it is presumed that the case might be related to a recent ragging incident at the institution.

187	2-Sep-2006	Government Medical College, Kurnool	Stripped naked, three second-year students were made to walk naked from their ground floor hostel room to a second floor room as three seniors clicked away on their mobile camera. This lasted for four hours till they were set free by another group of students.
188	4-Sep-2006	BJ Medical College, Pune	A first-year medical student was admitted to the ICU of the Sassoon Hospital after he was ragged by his seniors. He was made to do 200 push-ups! Due to the exertion, he was also passing blood in his urine.
189	1-Sep-2006	Andhra Pradesh	C.Lalitha, mother of Mukesh who was ragged brutally, ended her life by hanging herself from the fan when Mukesh and his father had gone to the NHRC office. Its believed that the spread of the incident in the community and the controversy surrounding it, forced her to take such an extreme step. Its also believed that she went into a depression when she came to know about the ragging incident.
190	18-Sep-2006	Mumbai	Rohit Vijay Rane, ragged in Chiplun, suffers swelling to skull and chest, and has belt marks on his hands, back and knee.
191	20-Sep-2006	Indore	A college student, caught and detained, for ragging others, has allegedly committed suicide by jumping in front of a train.
192	20-Sep-2006	TNB College, Bhagalpur, Bihar	Three students were injured in a bomb blast in the hostel over an altercation over ragging. The bombs were exploded by 12 persons, including outsiders.
193	14-Oct-2006	Kozhikode	Vipinlal, a student of MS Teachers Training Centre at Ranni, was admitted to the Kozhikode Medical College due to alleged ragging. Its learnt that he was forced to take alcohol by the seniors.
194	15-Oct-2006	Kolaghat	C. Pal was forced to smoke and thrashed by his seniors. He fainted after taking the drug and has been hospitalised.

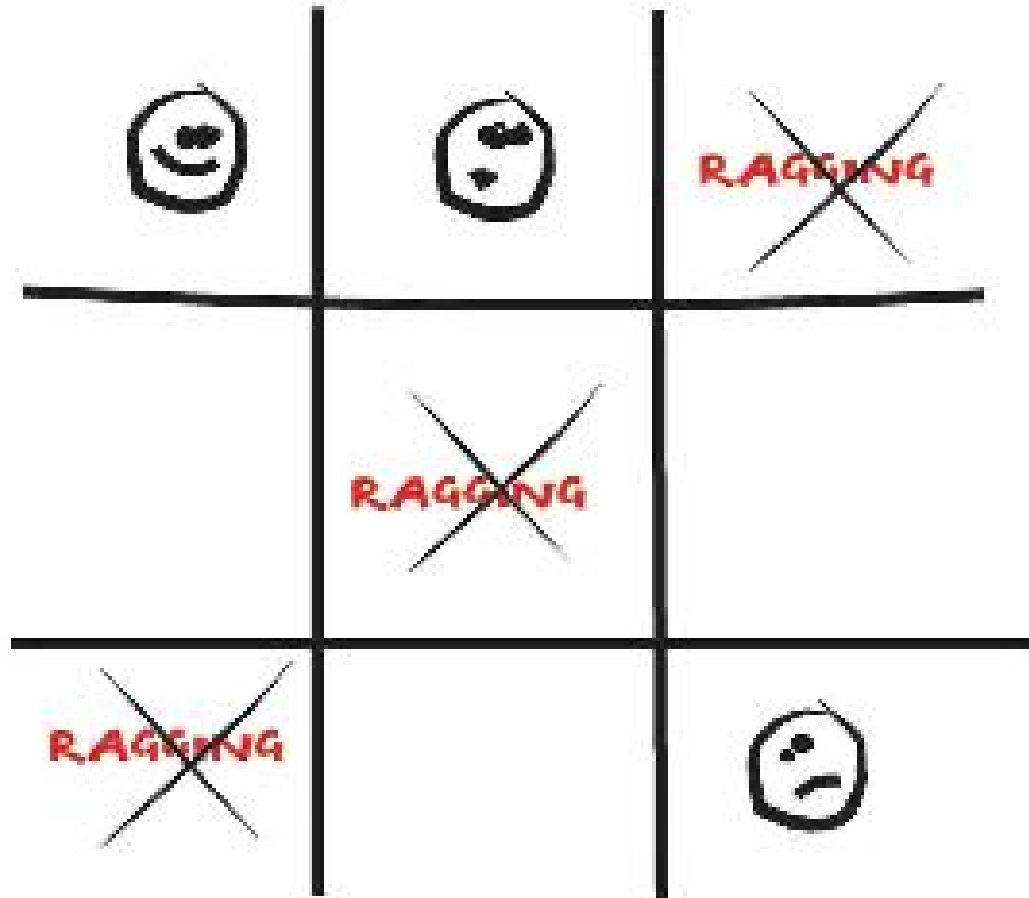
195	16-Oct-2006	Bhubaneswar, Orissa	Student of the Orissa University of Agriculture Technology suffered serious serious spinal injuries and broke both his legs after being pushed from a hostel terrace in the name of ragging.
196	18-Oct-2006	Bhubaneswar, Orissa	Bijoy K. Maharathi died after being tortured by students of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences for three weeks.
197	10-Nov-2006	Hyderabad	SP Manoj, an engineering student, hanged himself in his private hostel room at Langer Houz.
198	3-Dec-2006	G. Pulla Reddy College of Engineering, Kurnool	Somasekar, first year, tried attempting suicide by consuming sleeping pills after he was forced to strip by accused Sumant, though the latter denied ragging.
199	18-Jan-2007	MG College, Kerala	Girl attempts suicide after being repeatedly ragged by seniors.
200	30-Jan-2007	Stanley Medical College, Chennai	21 students suspended for ragging their junior.
201	4-Feb-2007	Nursing School, Kerala	Police charges a case of attempt to murder against two persons recognisable to the girl who was a victim of the SME ragging case.
202	20-Feb-2007	Kanpur	A second year student was admitted in the hospital following injuries sustained during ragging
203	25-Feb-2007	Nursing College, Anantapur	College ransacked and records destroyed after a student committed suicide due to ragging. The victim was forced to go back to the college by her parents despite being brutally ragged.
204	26-Feb-2006	GMC, Jammu	First year girl ragged by senior girls leading to bruises and soft tissue injury.
205	15-Mar-2007	MANIT, Bhopal	8 students expelled on charges of ragging.
206	Not Available	Regional Engineering College,	Rohit, a fresher, smashed the window panes after he was ragged. He hurt his arm and bled profusely and had to be

		Rourkela	admitted.
207	Not Available		Due to the fear of ragging that gripped Rajiv's heart, he marred his joy of clearing the Combined Entrance Test.
208	Not Available	HAU, Hisar	11 students have been suspended for their involvement in ragging that left 4 students injured.
209	Not Available	Institute of Technology and Science Ghaziabad	12 students were arrested after violence erupted between two groups of students due to ragging. 2 students were injured in the violence. Some involved were sons of prominent persons.
210	Not Available	KMC, DU, Delhi	2 third year students were suspended till the end of the second term after they were caught ragging.
211	Not Available	Architecture College, Lucknow	3 juniors were forced to flee the hostel after they were severely ragged. The college has expelled 6 students.

ANNEXURE – IX ‘A’**ANALYSIS OF THE REPORTED INCIDENTS OF RAGGING**

STATE/YEAR	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total
A.P.	1		1	6	1	2		5	5	2	23
ASSAM								1			1
BIHAR								1	1		2
CHANDIGARH		2		1			1				4
CHHATTISGARH				1			1	3			5
DAMAN & DIU				1							1
DELHI			1	1	1	2	2	2		1	10
GUJARAT	1			1		2		2	1		7
GOA				1							1
HARYANA				4	1	1		1		1	8
H.P.	1		1	4		1		1			8
JHARKHAND						1	1	2			4
J & K										1	1
KARNATAKA	1			1		1	2	1		1	7
KERALA		1	2	1		2		4	1	3	14
MAHARASHTRA	2			1		6	1	2	2		14
M.P.						1	1	3	1	1	7
MANIPUR								1			1
ORISSA			2			1		2	3	1	9
PUNJAB	2	2	1	2	1	3	2	2		1	16
RAJASTHAN						1					1
TAMIL NADU			1	4	2		1			1	9
TRIPURA						1					1
U.P.		1		1	5	7	3	4		1	22
UTTARAKHAND					1		1	1			3
WEST BENGAL				1	2	5	5	4	1	1	19
TOTAL	8	6	9	31	14	37	21	42	15	15	198

(*Extracted from the CURE Report of incidents reported in the news media)



RIGHT OR **WRONG** ?

ITEM NO. 33

COURT NO. 4

SECTION XI A

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No (s). 24295/2004

(From the judgment and order dated 24/06/04 in WP No. 30845/2003 of the HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM)

UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

Petitioner (s)

VERSUS

COUNCIL, PRINCIPALS, COLLEGES, KERALA & ORS

Respondent(s)

(with appln (s) for intervention and modification and directions and impleadment as party respondent and with prayer for interim relief and office report)

WITH SLP(C) No. 14856 of 2005

(with appln.(s) for exemption from filing O.T. and c/delay in filing counter affidavit and office report)

W.P. (CRL) No. 173 of 2006

(with appln.(s) for directions and exemption from filing O.T. and urging addl. Ground and with office report)

SLP(C) No. 24296 – 24299 of 2004

(With prayer for interim relief and office report)

Date: 16/05/2007 These Petitions were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE Dr. JUSTICE ARIJIT PASAYAT

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S.H. KAPADIA

Mr. Gopal Subramaniam, A.S.G. (AC)

Mrs. Sushma Suri, Adv.

Mr. Abhishek Tewari, Adv.

For Petitioner(s)

Mr. R. Sathish, Adv.

Dr. Sushil Balwada, Adv.

Mr. Satbir Tillania, Adv.

Mr. Anil Karnwal, Adv.

Mr. Prashant Kumar, Adv.

Ms. Pooja Dhar, Adv.

Ms. Ratna Kaul, Adv.

For M/s. AP & J Chambers, Adv.

For Respondent(s)

Mr. Ranjit Kumar, Sr. Adv.

Mr. E.M. S. Anam, Adv.

Mr. Fazlin Anam, Adv.

Mr. P.V. Dinesh, Adv.

Mrs. Sindhu T.P., Adv.

Mr. P.V. Vinod, Adv.
Mr. Sandeep B.K., Adv.

Mr.KH. Nobin Singh, Adv.
Mr. David Rao, Adv.
Mr. S. Biswajit Meitei, Adv.

Mr. Manoj Swarup, Adv.
Mr. Lalit Kohli, Adv.
For M/s. Manoj Swarup & Co., Advs.

Mr. T.V.George, Adv.

Mr. M.P. Vinod, Adv.
Mr. Ajay K. Jain, Adv.
Mr. Sjith P. Adv.

Mr. K.R. Sasiprabhu, Adv.

Mr. M.K. Michael, Adv.

Mr. M.K. D. Namboodiri, Adv.

Mr. V.G. Pragasam, Adv.
Mr. Shivaji M. Jadhav, Adv.

Mr. Radhe Shyam Jena, Adv.

For Res.1-3 & 5
in WP 173/06

Mr. Soli J. Sorabjee, Sr.Adv.
Ms. Vibha Datta Makhija

Mr. Manish Kumar, Adv
Mr. Ansar Ahmad Chaudhary, Adv.

UPON hearing counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

We have perused the Report of the Committee constituted pursuant to this Court's order to suggest remedial measures to tackle with the problem of ragging in educational institutions. An elaborate report has been submitted by the Committee headed by Dr. R.K. Raghavan. According to the Committee, the following factors need to be focused to tackle with the problem:

- (a) Primary responsibility for curbing ragging rests with academic institutions themselves.
- (b) Ragging adversely impacts the standards of higher education.
- (c) Incentives should be available to institutions for curbing the menace and there should be disincentives for failure to do so.
- (d) Enrolment in academic pursuits or a campus life should not immunize any adult citizen from penal provisions of the laws of the land.
- (e) Ragging needs to be perceived as failure to inculcate human values from the schooling stage.
- (f) Behavioural patterns among students, particularly potential 'raggers', need to be identified.
- (g) Measures against ragging must deter its recurrence.

(h) Concerted action is required at the level of the school, higher educational institution, district administration, university, State and Central Governments to make any curb effective.

(i) Media and the Civil Society should be involved in this exercise.

The Committee has made several recommendations. For the present, we feel that the following recommendations should be implemented without any further lapse of time.

(1) The punishment to be meted out has to be exemplary and justifiably harsh to act as a deterrent against recurrence of such incidents.

(2) Every single incident of ragging where the victim or his parent/guardian or the Head of Institutions is not satisfied with the institutional arrangement for action, a First Information Report must be filed without exception by the institutional authorities with the local police authorities. Any failure on the part of the institutional authorities or negligence or deliberate delay in lodging the FIR with the local police shall be construed to be an act of culpable negligence on the part of the institutional authority. If any victim or his parent/guardian of ragging intends to file FIR directly with the police, that will not absolve the institutional authority from the requirement of filing the FIR.

(3) Courts should make an effort to ensure that cases involving ragging are taken up on a priority basis to send the correct message that ragging is not only to be discouraged but also to be dealt with sternness.

In addition, we direct that the possibility of introducing in the educational curriculum a subject relating to ragging shall be explored by the National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) and the respective State Council of Educational Research & Training (SCERT). This aspect can be included in the teaching of the subjects "Human Rights".

In the prospectus to be issued for admission by educational institutions, it shall be clearly stipulated that in case the applicant for admission is found to have indulged in ragging in the past or if it is noticed later that he has indulged in ragging, admission may be refused or he shall be expelled from the educational institution,

The Central Government and the State Governments shall launch a programme giving wide publicity to the menace of ragging and the consequences which follow in case any student is detected to have been involved in ragging.

It shall be the collective responsibility of the authorities and functionaries of the concerned institution and their role shall also be open to scrutiny for the purpose of finding out whether they have taken effective steps for preventing ragging and in case of their failure, action can be taken; for example, denial of any grant-in-aid or assistance from the State Governments.

Anti-ragging committees and squads shall be forthwith formed by the institutions and it shall be the job of the committee or the squad, as the case may be, to see that the Committee's recommendations, more particularly those noted above, are observed without exception and if it is noticed that there is any deviation, the same shall be forthwith brought to the notice of this Court.

The committee constituted pursuant to the order of this Court shall continue to monitor the functioning of the anti-ragging committees and the squads to be formed. They shall also monitor the implementation of the recommendations to which reference has been made above.

Post these matters in September, 2007 for further directions on the recommendations received from the Committee. I.A. No. 5/2007 in S.L.P. (C) No. 24295/2004.

Issue notice.

Response, if any, by the University shall be filed within four weeks. Rejoinder, if any, within four weeks thereafter.

Mr. Gopal Subramaniam, learned amicus curiae shall also indicate his views.

Writ Petition (Crl.) No. 173/2006 :

List this petition separately in September, 2007.

Sd/-
17.5.07
(N. Annapurna)
Court Master

Sd/-
17.5.07
(Madhu Saxena)
Court Master