



VIT-AP

UNIVERSITY

POLICY ON ANTI-RAGGING



VIT-AP University, Amaravati
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1. INTRODUCTION

‘*Merit*’ and ‘*Ethics*’ being the core driving values towards turning out professionals of high caliber with strong sense of ethical judgments, social integration of student’s population coming from different parts of the country with most diverse cultural and social back grounds, becomes a matter of prime importance. ‘Ragging’ a social menace, as such has no place in academic environment of the Institute and concerted efforts are required to be in place to prevent its occurrence at any point of time. Hence the need for a balanced ‘anti- ragging policy’ to be adopted by the Institute.

Hon’ble Supreme Court of India, during December 2007 has expressed concern over the incidents of ragging occurring in higher educational institutions and the need to eliminate it altogether.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India has taken a serious note of the incidents of ragging and is of the view that stern action should be taken against those indulging in “ragging” so that these incidents are not repeated and exemplary punishment is meted out to those indulging in it. Strict implementation of the guidelines issued by Honorable Supreme Court on this issue has also been stressed by the Ministry.

Ragging is a criminal offence and lowers the standards of education. The ‘anti-ragging policy’ adopted by the Institute takes care of preventive, procedural and punitive aspects of ragging based on the guidelines provided by Hon’ble Supreme Court of India, recommendations of the Raghavan Committee, instructions/guidelines issued by the Ministry of HRD (Govt. of India).

2. ANTI-RAGGING POLICY

This policy encourages socialization of students to the academic environment of the Institute, simultaneously discouraging and preventing any negative acts on parts of senior students, which goes against the basic purpose of socio-academic integration. The ‘anti-ragging policy’ adopted by the Institute therefore is aimed at:

- (a) Creation, development and nurturing a conducive, socio-academic environment within the student population.
- (b) Generating and maintaining a high level of confidence within new entrants

and their parents/guardians to perceive that fresh entrants to the Institute are welcome and provided support, rather than being harassed and intimidated.

- (c) Keeping in place an integrated system to discourage and prevent any negative acts like ‘ragging’ by the seniors, which disrupts socio-academic integration of new entrants.
- (d) Prescribing deterrent measures for any violation of the “Anti-Ragging Policy” by way of disciplinary measures.

3. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy the following are defined as under: -

‘Institute’ means the VIT-AP University, Amaravati.

‘Student’ includes any person who is enrolled for any course, whether full time or part time with the Institute. This also includes research associates/scholars or a visitors, and / or a repeaters.

‘Hostel’ includes the place/(s) where students are accommodated through institutional arrangement.

‘Ragging’ constitutes one or more of any of the following acts:

- (a) a conduct by any student or a group of students whether by words spoken or written or by an act which has the effect of teasing, treating or handling any other student with rudeness;
- (b) indulging in rowdy or undisciplined activities by a student or group of students which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship, physical or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in any other student;
- (c) asking a student to do any act which the student will not carry out in the ordinary course and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame, or torment or embarrassment so as to adversely affect the physique or psyche of such student(s);
- (d) any act by a student that prevents, disrupts or disturbs the regular academic activity of any other student(s);
- (e) exploiting the services of any student for completing the academic tasks

assigned to an individual or a group of students.

- (f) any act of financial extortion or forceful expenditure burden put on a student by any other student or a group of students;
- (g) 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;
- (h) any act or abuse by spoken words, emails, posts, social networking posts, e-posts, public insults which would also include deriving perverted pleasure, vicarious or sadistic thrill from actively or passively participating in the discomfiture to a student(s);
- (i) any act that affects the mental health and self-confidence of a student with or without an intent to derive a sadistic pleasure or showing off power, authority or superiority by any student or a group of students over any other student(s).

4. **PREVENTIVE ASPECTS OF RAGGING**

Systemized Efforts for Socio-Academic Integration of New Entrants.

(a) Address by the Competent Authorities of the Institute.

The Vice-Chancellor, Dean Academics, Asst. Director Admissions, Deans of all schools and other concerned official(s) during their address/discussions to/with parents/guardians, admission aspirants/fresh entrants/ students at the time of counseling meets, new batch induction on registration, batch inaugurals and other such occasions, should invariably assure the students and parents about full protection and support against any attempts of ragging by seniors while briefly introducing the '*Anti Ragging Policy*' of the Institute. The efforts during such meets be directed towards achieving socio-academic integration of new entrants with the specific merit oriented environment of mutuality and trust of the Institute.

(b) New batch inaugurals

The Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar and faculty members, during new batch inaugurals may provide to the students, the guidelines on expected behavioral norms wherein a mention to the Anti ragging policy may be made.

(c) Social, Cultural, Sports Activities

The membership of all student clubs and committees will be coordinated on the lines of this (proposed anti-ragging) policy. The induction process to all students' clubs and committees will be organized in line with the proposed anti – ragging policy.

(d) Watch and Ward arrangements

The Institute has identified following vulnerable locations

- (i) Hostel blocks and mess,
- (ii) Vacant class rooms.
- (iii) Auditorium
- (iv) Canteen,
- (v) Playground / Gymnasium
- (vi) Student activity centers,

All concerned are to keep a constant vigil and watch at such locations including monitoring of the atmosphere and the environment at eating 'Joints' (Canteens, Mess etc.), Hostel / accommodations, where students are accommodated.

These areas are needed to be carefully guarded if required by posting security personnel.

Wide – dissemination of Anti-Ragging Policy

Prospectus and Admission forms

- i. All prospectuses should contain a specific caution that “ragging is banned in the Institute, and anyone found indulging in ragging, is likely to be punished appropriately which may include expulsion from the institute.”
- ii. All students of the Institute are required to sign an anti-ragging declaration forms (Annexure I and II) at the time of admission to the

institute.

Erection of Posters

Put up posters in prominent places within the campus to exhort students to prevent, or not to indulge in ragging, also mentioning the names of the officials and their contact numbers, to be contacted in case of “ragging”. The same needs to be displayed on the website of the institute.

5. MONITORING ASPECTS OF RAGGING

Anti-Ragging Surveys

Anonymous random surveys, across first year students be carried out every fortnight, during first three months, at all the constituents of the Institute, to verify and check, whether the campus is indeed free from ‘ragging’.

Anti – Ragging Committee (ARC)

An Anti – Ragging Committee (ARC) should be constituted at Institute level to monitor the various aspects related to menace of ragging. The members of this committee can be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor (of which one has to be necessarily a female member). The ARC constitution includes

- (i) Deputy Director Student welfare – Chair Person
- (ii) Chief Warden Men’s Hostel - Member
- (iii) Chief Warden Women’s Hostel - Member
- (iv) Dean/Head of the Respective School - Member
- (v) Invited Members (Nominated by the Vice Chancellor)

The Committee Members will work in order to carry out the compliance of this policy across the whole institute along with the manner in which the same are dealt with.

6. ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY THE HEAD OF THE INSTITUTION:

On receipt of any information concerning any reported incident of ragging,

the Head of institution shall immediately determine if a case under the penal laws is made out and if so, either on his own or through a member of the Anti-Ragging Committee authorised by him in this behalf, proceed to file a First Information Report (FIR), within twenty four hours of receipt of such information or recommendation, with the police and local authorities, under the appropriate penal provisions relating to one or more of the following, namely;

- (i) Abetment to ragging;
- (ii) Criminal conspiracy to rag;
- (iii) Unlawful assembly and rioting while ragging;
- (iv) Public nuisance created during ragging;
- (v) Violation of decency and morals through ragging;
- (vi) Injury to body, causing hurt or grievous hurt;
- (vii) Wrongful restraint;
- (viii) Wrongful confinement;
- (ix) Use of criminal force;
- (x) Assault as well as sexual offences or unnatural offences;
- (xi) Extortion;
- (xii) Criminal trespass;
- (xiii) Offences against property;
- (xiv) Criminal intimidation;
- (xv) Attempts to commit any or all of the above mentioned offences against the victim(s);
- (xvi) Threat to commit any or all of the above mentioned offences against the victim(s);
- (xvii) Physical or psychological humiliation;
- (xviii) All other offences following from the definition of “Ragging”.

Provided further that the institution shall also continue with its own enquiry initiated under clause 9 of these Regulations and other measures without

waiting for action on the part of the police/local authorities and such remedial action shall be initiated and completed immediately and in no case later than a period of seven days of the reported occurrence of the incident of ragging.

7. **PROCEDURAL AND PUNITIVE ASPECTS OF “RAGGING”**

First Information Person (FIP)

- (a) ‘First Information Person (FIP)’ would be nominated by the Institute at beginning of each academic year. The FIP would provide first instance intervention in case of any complaint of “ragging”.
- (b) FIP will also need to co-ordinate the preventive aspects of ragging, under guidance of the Convener ARC aiming to create a “ragging free environment”
- (c) FIP will be responsible for taking steps to ensure that cases of “ragging” within the institute are brought to the notice of the Convener ARC as soon as possible.
- (d) FIP is empowered to deal with informal complaints of “ragging” and/or take suo- moto cognizance of any such incident.

Ragging Reporting Procedure

- (a) If any individual believes that he or she has been subjected to ‘ragging’ or has knowledge of any such incident, such person (or FIP, who may have assisted the complainants or those, who have otherwise observed / known about “ragging”) shall have option to file a complaint with the Convener ARC. This may be done in writing or orally. Written complaint is preferable.
- (b) FIP or member/s of the ARC will also be available to discuss any concerns exhibited by any student or a group of students, about ragging.
- (c) All formal/Informal complaints of “ragging” may be made to the FIP within the constituent unit or directly to Convener ARC as stated above.

ARC as Enquiry Committee

ARC will investigate all reported cases of ragging, in such a way, so as to maintain confidentiality to the extent practicable under the circumstances. The investigations should start maximum within three (03) days of reporting the incident and reports finalized by the ARC pinpointing the involvement of the accused along with recommendations relating to the punishment will be submitted to the competent authority maximum within a period of four (04) weeks. In exceptional circumstances, the Chairperson ARC may grant extension to the time limit under information to the complainant and the accused.

Process of Enquiry

The process of enquiry should be such to ensure that principles of natural justice are adhered to. Details of the process would be identical as in the case of 'Sexual Harassment Policy' adopted by the Institute. If the ragging also includes an element of sexual harassment then in that case both committees i.e. ARC and Sexual Harassment committee will look into the matter independently of each other.

Punishment / Penalties for 'ragging'

Based on the report of enquiry submitted by the ARC, the **Convener** ARC will recommend to the competent authority any of the punishment/(s) listed below or any other kind of punishment, which she/he may consider to be appropriate.

- (a) Withholding scholarships or other benefits
- (b) Debarring from representation of events.
- (c) Withholding results
- (d) Expulsion from Institute.
- (e) Debarring from examination/s.
- (f) Suspension from the institute or class for a limited period.
- (g) Fine with public apology
- (h) Prosecuting for criminal offence.
- (i) Filing FIR with the local police
- (j) Cancellation of admission

Appeal

Appeal with regards to any action taken against the accused at any level and / or against the punishment awarded under this policy, shall lie with the Vice-Chancellor of the Institute, which should be filed within a period of two weeks from such an action or award of punishment.

8. Saving and Repeal Clause

Vice-Chancellor of the Institute will possess the sole authority for any interpretation, modification, or amendment to the policy depending upon the need from time to time. She/He will also possess powers to exercise her/his discretion with respect to any or all of the clauses of this policy.

9. Administrative Action In The Event of Ragging

9.1 The institution shall punish a student found guilty of ragging after following the procedure and in the manner prescribed hereinunder:

- a) The Anti-Ragging Committee of the institution shall take an appropriate decision, in regard to punishment or otherwise, depending on the facts of each incident of ragging and nature and gravity of the incident of ragging established in the recommendations of the Anti-Ragging Squad.
- b) The Anti-Ragging Committee may, depending on the nature and gravity of the guilt established by the Anti-Ragging Squad, award, to those found guilty, one or more of the following punishments, namely;
 - (i) Suspension from attending classes and academic privileges.
 - (ii) Withholding/ withdrawing scholarship/ fellowship and other benefits.
 - (iii) Debarring from appearing in any test/ examination or other evaluation process.
 - (iv) Withholding results.
 - (v) Debarring from representing the institution in any regional, national or international meet, tournament, youth festival, etc.
 - (vi) Suspension/ expulsion from the hostel.
 - (vii) Cancellation of admission.
 - (viii) Rustication from the institution for period ranging from one to four semesters.
 - (ix) Expulsion from the institution and consequent debarring from admission to any other institution for a specified period. Provided that where the persons committing or abetting the act of ragging are not identified, the institution shall resort to collective punishment.

Any case of ragging or any such mis-behaviour by any student can be reported by email or over phone or in person to any one of the members of the Anti-Ragging Committee **(Contact: 7901091281 and Email id: ant.rag@vitap.ac.in)**. All other teaching and non-teaching staff members also may bring the case of any ragging to the knowledge of the Chair Person or any Member of the Committee.