

## **Campus Annoyance through Ragging - Time to Launch Innovative Institutional Mechanisms –The Case of Higher Education Sector In India**

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**Abstract:** This paper focuses on the need for strong institutional mechanism to contain acts of ragging & focuses on the need for introducing ethical education. Ragging & ragging related nuisance cause psychological tension sometimes leading to fatal outcomes. Indian youth are falling prey to such ragging related annoyance. There are increasing incidents of fatalities being reported from higher education sector & especially technical education sector. Ragging itself has been a negative act which leads to mental as well as physical harassment. Even though it is said ragging involves senior students ragging junior or fresher but there are ragging acts involving both juniors as well as seniors. The College management, other Institutional mechanism, the regulatory authorities have stringent measures to prevent such fatal acts. But there is some lacuna in bringing ragging to a complete close. There are acts preventing them but still there is a need for ethical education for students.

**Key words:** ragging, campus annoyance, challenges, need for institutional mechanism, ethical education

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### **I. Introduction**

Indian higher education sector is an expanding sector with higher GER. The colleges across the country are alarmingly growing towards expansion & diversification. But the problem related to student behaviour in campus has been debated because there is a sharp increase in the ragging & related annoyance in campus. Even the most prestigious Institutions are being surfaced with this problem.

**The concept of ragging** - the concept of ragging is defined as creation of psychological / physical or both types of tension / harassment / irritation / and nuisance. Both boys & girls are engaged in ragging but the % of boys is more.

1. **Hostel Ragging:** Outstation students or students from rural background who stay in the hostel are most vulnerable to ragging. They may be asked to do all odd acts from cleaning the room of seniors to washing their clothes, from fetching them water or milk to completing their assignments
  2. **Dress Code Ragging:** The fresher students or juniors are asked to dress in a specific dress code for a particular period of time. The dress code ragging may make the fresher students to feel embarrassed and painful as it often brings them unnecessary attention from everybody
  3. **Drug Abuse:** This can be the worst form of ragging wherein the fresher students are forced to try drugs in front of senior students or drink or smoke or attend pubs forcefully thereby driving them into addiction.
  4. **Formal Introduction:** This involves asking the fresher students to introduce themselves. The introduction includes the fresher's name, address, school, marks, their hair styles etc.
  5. **Playing April fool / fooling:** The freshmen may be asked to enact scenes from a particular movie or mimic a particular film star. In many cases, the seniors may also ask the freshmen to do silly things like climbing a tree, kissing a tree, proposing to someone from the opposite sex, etc
  6. **Sexual Abuse:** This is the severest form of ragging that takes place in colleges. The seniors are mainly interested in 'juicy' details such as the anatomical description of one's body parts, his or her sexual interests, etc. In many cases, the freshmen have been asked to strip before the seniors.
  7. **Verbal Torture:** Verbal torture involves indulging in loose talks. The fresher students may be asked to sing the lyrics of any vulgar song or use abusive language while talking to the seniors.
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1. The Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1996. (Applicable in the State of Tamil Nadu).
  2. The Kerala Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1998.
  3. The Maharashtra Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1999
  4. The Prohibition of Ragging in Educational Institutes Act, 2000

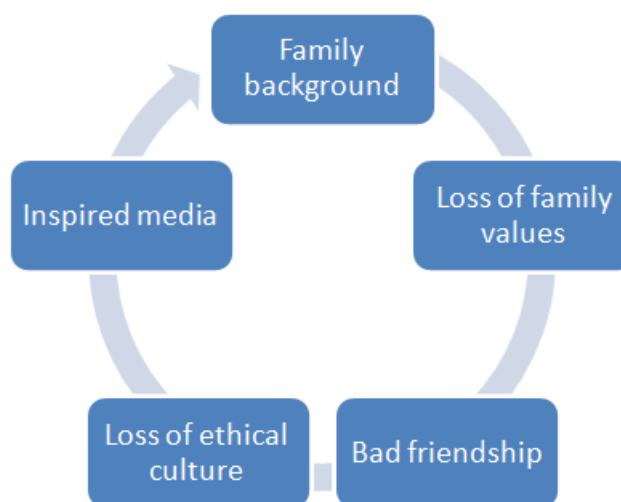
- The Raghavan Committee was set up by the union Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry, on the orders of Supreme Court of India in 2007

Anti ragging help line has recorded following statistics

The number of phone calls made to the Anti Ragging Helpline	
2013-2014	1,65,297
2014-2016	13,49,437

The number of cases registered	
2013-2014	190
2014-2016	770

**The causes for ragging & related nuisances inside campus-**The causes for involving ragging includes as shown in this diagram



- Family background** – These days’ families have become unitary & most of the children are single. Parents spend their time in earning while the children are alone find solace in media related entertainment. They fall into bad friendship where they enjoy outing with their friends. They spend very little time at home while their wards are busy with their careers. The regulatory hand in the form of grand parents, siblings, or elders is missing. Going out with shopping with parents was a much celebrated affair & experience for children but now children would like to shop on their own online or with their own friends. Family values have deteriorated. Finding solace outside the family has given rise to a change in their attitude & behaviour; Children find their friends as everything & become addicted to friends’ wishes & whims. This motivates them to act according to the commands of the friends. It is seen that ragging is always not individual but groups,
- Bad friendship** – The loneliness at home drives children to find extra love & attention outside the home This leads to friendship But the children fall prey to bad friendship quickly while their age inexperience or their family background is misused by the friends.
- Inspired videos** – The solitariness leads to finding entertainment outside the family & friends This leads to viewing videos & crazy clippings. Bike riding , Bike / car racing , puzzle games, adventure videos, assault videos, shoot out videos, harassment videos, torture videos, bullying videos, war videos, terror campaign videos, confrontation & war videos etc have created an aura of negative pleasure seeking in young minds.
- Lack of ethical culture** – above all these reasons the cause for children creating nuisance in college is the lack of ethical values. The families have become too much addicted to earnings & pompous living . The parents always stress the earning to better the future of the children while they spend very less time in shaping the future of the children. The very short period which is being spent with the children is limited to scolding or punishing. This creates a void in children. The parents often fail to understand the necessity to shape the children future not with monetary gains but with supportive family values. Old Indian Vedic literature is filled with references to good parent hood. Parents lack time to children while their children lack time to parents. This is also the leading cause for increase in old age homes especially in urban centers. Children are sending their parents to old age homes while they are happily spending time with their careers & families. The necessity to feel that parents are supportive to the

upbringing of their own children has become too vague a concept. They are freely joining them to old age homes. Ethical values are cornered as orthodox thinking. Joint families are a rare happening. Families are single child families. Sibling growth is a new concept. Mother s avoid second child for health reasons while father avoid second child because of brining up issues.

5. **The loss of family values** - The loss of family values has created such a big void in today's children that they are finding their lost love & pampering outside the family. This is the reason for increasing number of hukka bar, dance bars, gymnasiums, discotheque, party clubs, health clubs, night clubs, pubs, recreation clubs, amusement clubs, laughter clubs, adventure clubs, play clubs, sports clubs, quest clubs, voyage clubs, tour clubs, pleasure clubs, trip clubs, cruise clubs, walk clubs, expedition clubs, hunt clubs, casinos, etc. The rise in urban entertainment channels has widened with the video related entertainment. The communication revolution has made the children know everything touch of a button. They have become electronic gadget.

But several Higher Education Institutions have come up with innovative mechanism towards containing ragging & related activities.

1. **Creation of an anti ragging cell** – The colleges have framed an anti ragging cell to monitors student behaviour
2. **Complaint box** – all colleges have a complaint box so that each student feels free to lodge complaint
3. **Group monitoring units**- several colleges have monitor system which makes student monitors / representative s/ leaders to monitor the any activities & report to the class teacher or college management.
4. **e-reporting in campus cells**- Some colleges have e-reporting cells / committees to report about ragging related activity.
5. **tutor ward guidance cell**- Some colleges have tutor ward guidance cell / committees to report about any such activity

Above all these, there is a necessity to make students nurture good ethics. Children should be reared to imbibe ethical qualities. They should be given qualities such as respecting each other brotherhood fraternity & service orientation.

## **II. Conclusion**

Thus there are increasing incidents of fatalities being reported from higher education sector even after stringent measures . Colleges have come up with innovative dives to stop the menace as ragging itself has been a negative act which leads to mental as well as physical harassment of the affected. The Institutional mechanisms & the regulatory authorities have stringent measures to prevent such fatal acts but there is a need to make them more supportive to eradicate such abuses. But there is some lacuna in bringing ragging to a absolute seal. There needs to be inclusive acts preventing them through ethical education

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