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Anti-Ragging Information & Measures

The National Medical Commission (Prevention and Prohibition of Ragging in Medical Colleges and Institutions) Regulations, 2021. [No. UGMEB/NMC/Rules & Regulations/2021.—In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 57 of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 (30 of 2019) and in pursuance of the Judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India passed in Special Leave Petition (SLP) No. 24295 of 2006, dated the 16th May, 2007 and in Civil Appeal No. 887 of 2009 dated the 8th May, 2009, and the UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009; Dated 18th Nov 2021]

Definition of Ragging.—Ragging shall *mean 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.

Actions that may constitute ragging.—The following actions shall be included but not limited to those that may constitute ragging, namely:—

(a) any conduct by any student or students whether by words spoken or written or by an act which has the effect of teasing, treating or handling with rudeness a fresher or any other student;

- (b) indulging in rowdy or undisciplined activities by any student or students which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship, physical or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in any fresher or any other student;
- (c) asking any student to do any act which such the student will not in the ordinary course do 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 fresher or any other student;
- (d) any act by a senior student that prevents, disrupts or disturbs the regular academic activity of any other student or a fresher;
- (e) exploiting the services of a fresher or any other 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 fresher or any other student by students;
- (g) any act of physical abuse including all variants of it, such as, 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, post, snail-mails, blogs, public insults which would also include deriving perverted pleasure, vicarious or sadistic thrill from actively or passively participating in the discomfiture to fresher or any other student;
- (i) any act of physical or mental abuse (including bullying and exclusion) targeted at another student (fresher or otherwise) on the ground of colour, race, religion, caste, ethnicity, gender (including transgender), sexual orientation, appearance, nationality, regional origins, linguistic identity, place of birth, place of residence or economic background;
- (j) any act that undermines human dignity and respect through humiliation or otherwise;
- (k) any act that affects the mental health and self-confidence of a fresher or any other student with or without an intent to derive a sadistic pleasure or showing off power, authority or superiority by a student over any fresher or any other student;
- (l) any other act not explicitly mentioned above but otherwise construed as an act of ragging in the letter and spirit of the definition for ragging as provided under regulations 3 and 4.

Measures for encouraging healthy interaction between freshers and seniors.—

The following measures shall be taken by the medical college or institution for encouraging healthy interaction between freshers and seniors, namely:—

- (i) the institution shall set up appropriate committees including the faculty from pre-clinical years, representatives of students, warden and some senior students to actively monitor, promote and regulate healthy, interaction between the freshers and senior students;
- (ii) freshers' welcome parties shall be organised at the institutional or departmental level by senior students and faculty together, preferably within the first two weeks of the beginning of the academic session, for proper introduction to one another and where the talents of the freshers are brought out properly in the presence of the faculty, thus helping them to shed their inferiority complex, if any, and remove their inhibition;
- (iii) the institution shall enhance the student-faculty interaction by involving both fresher and senior students in appropriate matters of the medical college or institution, such as curriculum design, extracurricular activities and institutional celebrations so that the students feel that they are responsible partners in managing the affairs of the institution.

DEALING WITH INCIDENTS OF RAGGING

Disciplinary matters to be resolved within the camps of institutions.—All matters of discipline within medical college or institution shall be resolved within the campus of such medical college or institution, except those impinging on law and order or breach of peace or public tranquility, which may be dealt with under the penal laws for the time being in force.

Reporting incidents of ragging.—

- (1) It shall be mandatory for all concerned to report every incident of ragging.
- (2) Not reporting an incident of ragging even by a fresher shall be viewed seriously and may amount to abetment of ragging.
- (3) The report or complaint of an incident of ragging may be made by—
 - (i) a fresher or a parent or other student; or
 - (ii) authorities of the hostel, security personnel or any other staff such as canteen staff; or
 - (iii) Head of the Institution, faculty member, or members of the Anti-Ragging Squad or Anti-Ragging Committee on surprise checking; or (iv) Others such as direct complaint to local Police or District Authorities.
- (4) In all instances, without exception, the name of the complainant, especially students, unless otherwise permissible, shall be kept confidential.
- (5) Every information or complaint regarding incident of ragging shall be immediately and simultaneously conveyed to the Head of the Institution either directly or through the Control Room or anti-ragging helpline.

(6) Other officials of the medical college or institution, as shall be previously decided upon, such as the members of the Ant-Ragging Squad and Anti-Ragging Committee, hostel warden, security staff and others shall also be simultaneously informed.

(7) Necessary mechanisms shall be kept in place by the medical colleges or institutions for immediately relaying information regarding incidents of ragging to the University, district authorities, police officials.

Institutional administrative and penal actions.—

The broad ingredient that may call for punitive actions on receipt and approval of the recommendations include but is not limited to—

(i) abetment to ragging;	(viii) wrongful restraint;
(ii) criminal conspiracy to ragging;	(ix) wrongful confinement;
(iii) unlawful assembly and rioting while ragging;	(x) use of criminal force;
(iv) public nuisance created during ragging;	(xi) assault as well as sexual offences or even unnatural offences;
(v) violation of decency and morals through ragging;	(xii) extortion in any form;
(vi) physical or psychological humiliation;	(xiii) criminal intimidation;
(vii) causing injury to body, causing hurt or grievous hurt;	(xiv) criminal trespass;
	(xv) offences against property;
	(xvi) any other act construed as provided under regulations ³ and 4.

(5) The nature of punitive actions that may be decided shall include the following, but shall not be limited to one or more of these actions that may be imposed, as deemed fit, namely:—

- (i) suspension from attending classes and academic privileges;
- (ii) withholding or withdrawing scholarship or fellowship and other benefits;
- (iii) debarring from appearing in any test or examination or other evaluation process;
- (iv) withholding results;
- (v) debarring from attending conferences, and other academic programmes;
- (vi) debarring from representing the institution in any regional, national or international meet, tournament, youth festival, etc. ;
- (vii) suspension or expulsion from the hostel;
- (viii) imposition of a fine ranging from twenty-five thousand rupees to one lakh rupees;
- (ix) cancellation of admission;

(x) rustication from the medical college or institution for a period ranging from one to four semesters;

(xi) expulsion from the medical colleges or institutions and consequent debarring from admission to any other institution for a specified period.