
RAGGING IN INDIA: PROBLEM AND PERSPECTIVE

R.H.Waghamode , J.L.Kalyan and S.S. Angadi

Teaching Assistant, Department of Criminology and Forensic Science, Karnatak
Science College, Dharwad (Karnataka State). India.

Associate Professor, Department of Criminology and Forensic Science, Karnatak
Science College, Dharwad (Karnataka State). India.

Research Scholar, Department of Criminology and Forensic Science, Karnatak
Science College, Dharwad (Karnataka State). India.

Abstract:

Today, ragging may have become deep rooted in the Indian educational set up, but many would be surprised to know that ragging is originally a western concept. Ragging is supposed to have its creation in certain European Universities where seniors played practical jokes at the time of welcoming freshmen to the institutions. Gradually, the practice of ragging became popular throughout the world. However, with time, ragging assumed obnoxious and harmful connotations and was severely condemned. Today, almost all countries of the world have enacted stern laws that ban ragging and it has been completely eradicated in countries such as Canada and Japan. But sadly, India, which inherited ragging as a legacy from the British Raj, has not been able to free itself from the clutches of this inhuman practice. It can be said, without any room for doubt, that the worst form of ragging is committed in India.

Ragging had become a major concern of society today. It had increased its level from college to society level. There are some basic human rights which provide an individual to live peacefully , healthy , and without any alien disturbance and contrary to this, ragging, as a custom , violates all those rights from the very beginning and thereby, putting question on capabilities of Law and also on the validity of human dignity.

This paper will be dealing with the commonly found behavioural patterns with ragging in the light of some recent cases and their consequences.

The objectives of this research paper is to understand the problem and perspective of Ragging in India, legal approaches for prevention, Also, this paper will discuss the role of UGC and Guidelines imposed by SC, along with role of Educational institutions which is more crucial to control the incidents of ragging,

Key words: Ragging, **Bullying**, Hazing, Human Rights, Legal Approaches, UGC, SC Guidelines, Constitution, Education, NGO'S

INTRODUCTION

Ragging in India is a damaging form of interaction of the seniors in college or school with the juniors, newcomers or first years. It is similar to but not same as hazing in the United

States, it is not an initiation. It involves insults (simple or suggestive sexual, sarcastic and even physical), running errands for seniors, and many other complex activities. Highly reputed Indian colleges have a wistful history of ragging especially Medical colleges. It has become increasingly unpopular due to several complaints of serious injury to the victims and strict laws regarding ragging. Ragging is now defined as an act that violates or is perceived to violate an individual student's dignity.

Ragging, hazing, bullying, pledging, fagging etc. are traditional practice of humiliation and human rights abuse taking place in educational institutions all across the world, especially across South Asia

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India perhaps has given a more comprehensive meaning of ragging as under:

"Ragging is 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 student, indulging in rowdy or indisciplined activities which cause or are likely to cause annoyance, hardship or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in a fresher or a junior student and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame or embarrassment so as to adversely affect the psyche of a fresher or a junior student."

ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF RAGGING

Initially the ragging started in British era, in English colleges and universities but slowly it spread and corrupted almost entire Indian educational institutions. The excuse was to teach the social hierarchy in early career, and also learn other important values in life as if they were mature enough know anything about values and hierarchy. Many colleges such as AIIMS, Christian Medical College and IIT Delhi and National college of engineering, Tirunelveli has an unpleasant history of ragging, with many of the alumni regarding the ragging period as unbearable and traumatic

“The most inhumane act is the offence of Ragging on a human being by an inhuman creature.”

Ragging is a form of abuse on newcomers to educational institutions in India and Sri Lanka. It is similar to the American phenomenon known as hazing. Hazing is a term used to describe various ritual and other activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group. Currently, Sri Lanka is said to be its worst affected country in the world. There is no record to prove such an act has prevailed in the ancient Sri Lankan educational but It was in the post World War II era, a concept called ‘ragging’ came into existence. Ragging is not an indigenous phenomenon, but a direct result of the British colonialism in Sri Lanka. Soldiers returning from war re-entered the college and brought with them the technique of ragging learned in military camp which were used to make individual fail as an individual and succeed as a team. But eventually when lesser number of military persons entered the universities, ragging lost in primary objectives and became a violent and hazardous exercise and to the worst extreme ended up in murders.

Bullying

Bullying is abusive treatment, the use of force or coercion to affect others, particularly when habitual and involving an imbalance of power. It may involve verbal harassment, physical assault or coercion and may be directed persistently towards particular victims, perhaps on grounds of race, religion, sex or ability.

Forms of Ragging: From Bad To Worse

It is said that man's imagination knows no bounds. Very true, but when it comes to ragging, it can be rightly said that man's perverted imagination too knows no bounds! From what was intended to provide good humour and harmless fun to students, ragging today has assumed torturous, vulgar and inhuman forms that defy all norms of decency and morality. Some of the most popular forms of ragging in colleges are:

1. Dress Code Ragging : The freshmen are asked to dress in a specific dress code for a particular period of time. But this isn't as easy as it seems. For the dress code prescribed is generally weird, eg., dressing totally in white or black with the hair oiled and combed in a particular style. The dress code ragging may make the freshmen feel awkward and uncomfortable as it often brings them unnecessary attention from everybody.
2. Formal Introduction : This involves asking the freshmen to introduce themselves in 'Shudh Hindi'. The introduction includes the freshmen's name, address, school, marks, etc.
3. Verbal Torture : Verbal torture involves indulging in loose talks. The freshmen may be asked to sing the lyrics of any vulgar song or use abusive language while talking to the seniors.
4. 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.
5. Playing The Fool : 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. Hostel Ragging : Outstation students 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.
7. Drug Abuse : This can be the worst form of ragging wherein the freshmen are forced to try drugs thereby driving them into addiction.

Understanding the Psyche of a Ragger

It is to be understood that ragging is not merely a socio-legal problem. It has a certain psychological basis too. Just as every crime has a motive, what is it that propels a 'professional ragger' to indulge in ragging? Let us examine some possible reasons that initiate ragging:

1. Ragging Gives A Sense of Authority:

By having the freshmen always at his command, a senior student nurtures a sense of authority which boosts his morale and puts him on a high.

2. Ragging Can Be A Means Of Retaliation:

A senior who has some previous history of ragging may like to get back by venting his frustrations on the freshmen.

3. Satisfaction Of Sadistic Pleasures:

A potential ragger sees ragging as a good opportunity to satiate his sadistic pleasures all at the cost of a poor freshmen's imagination.

4. Peer Pressure:

It is also a reality that not all seniors who commit ragging enjoy doing it at their sweet will. Seeing most of their batch mates indulging in ragging, they fear being left out. So in order to avoid isolation, they too join the herd.

5. Ragging Makes a Fashion Statement:

Many senior students live under the misconception that ragging makes a style statement and thus will put them in the 'influential crowd' of their college.

Consequences of Ragging

Shocking, But True It is said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. This truly stands apt in the case of ragging. What begins from a friendly introduction in the name of ragging takes no time to assume disgusting and perverted overtones. Let us examine some shocking consequences of ragging:

Ragging Affects the Victim

An unpleasant incident of ragging may leave a permanent scar in the victim's mind that may haunt him for years to come.

2. The victim declines into a shell, forcing himself into ignominy and alienation from the rest of the world.
3. It demoralizes the victim who joins college life with many hopes and expectations.
4. Though incidents of physical assault and grievous injuries are not new, ragging also simultaneously causes grave psychological stress and trauma to the victim.
5. Those students who choose to protest against ragging are very likely to face ostracism from their seniors in the future.
6. Those who succumb to ragging may drop out thereby hampering their career prospects
7. In extreme cases, incidents of suicides and culpable homicide have also been reported.

Ragging Affects The Victim's Family

One can imagine the plight of a ragging victim's family, especially his or her parents who see their child suffering in pain and stress. Besides incurring medical and other incidental expenses to rehabilitate their child, they also have to bear the trauma of seeing his or her prospective career coming to an end

How Ragging Affects the Educational Institution:

1. Severe media barrage in extreme cases of ragging lowers the character of the educational institution and destroys the respect and faith it commands from society.
2. Those who indulge in ragging bring a bad name to their college thereby hampering its reputation and goodwill in society.

Ragging Affects The Ragers:

Ragging does not spare even its perpetrators. Those found guilty of ragging may be suspended, blacklisted and even permanently expelled from college. Thus we see that the practice of ragging does good to none. From those who are victims of ragging to those who commit or encourage it, ragging spares none.

Ragging some basic forms

- To address seniors
- To perform mass drills
- To copy class notes for the seniors
- To serve various errands
- To do menial jobs for the seniors
- To ask / answer vulgar questions
- To look at pornographic pictures
- To force to drink alcohol, scalding tea
- To force to do acts with sexual overtones, including homosexual acts
- To force to do acts which can lead to physical injury / mental torture or death
- To strip, kiss, etc
- To do other obscenities

Present state

Practice of familiarizing beginners with their seniors has now turned into a potent tool for ill-treating and punishing poor students if they fail to obey their seniors.

Under the pretext of fun, a poor student is often assaulted, sometimes even stripped and intimidated by his seniors and this ritualized torture leaves an indelible impression on his mind. The chilling incident continues to haunt him throughout his life, and he unknowingly develops various psychological disorders.

After experiencing the evil of ragging, a student develops a feeling of revenge for his 'unjustified harassment' and derives pleasure in ragging his juniors on his turn. So the trend goes on and students continue to suffer.

Those who surrender before their seniors are set free from the torment after going through a series of inhuman acts, but those who refuse to follow their diktats are subjected to barbaric and brutal treatment and are forced to urinate on high voltage heaters, take part in naked parades, shave off their moustaches and beards, and stand upside down on their heads etc.

The situation sometimes turns so bad that it compels the ragging victim to commit suicide. A section of students feel that light ragging should be allowed in educational institutions, while some are totally opposed to the idea and demand stricter punishment for those involved in it.

A high-level committee in 2009, which probed the death of Aman Kachroo, revealed that alcohol was the main reason leading to serious form of ragging and violence in the campus.

The custom of canning (Ragging) is indeed poorly-thought out. A report from 2007 highlights 42 instances of physical injury, and reports on ten deaths purportedly the result of ragging: Ragging has reportedly caused at least 30–31 deaths in the last 7 years. In the 2007 session, approximately 7 ragging deaths have been reported. In addition, a number of freshmen were severely traumatised to the extent that they were admitted to mental institutions. Ragging in India commonly involves serious abuses and clear violations of human rights. Often media reports and others unearth that it goes on, in many institutions, in the infamous Abu Ghraib style:¹ and on innocent victims.

In many colleges, ragging has been strictly banned and is proving effective . However, this ban has not been the case elsewhere, as seen by the number of ragging cases still reported by the media. Ragging involves gross violations of basic human rights. The seniors are known to torture juniors and by this those seniors get some kind of sadistic pleasures.

Though ragging has ruined the lives of many, resistance against it has grown up only recently. Several Indian states have made legislatures banning ragging, and the Supreme Court of India has taken a strong stand to curb ragging. Ragging has been declared a *criminal offence*.

The Indian civil society has also started to mount resistance, only recently.

However, the Anti-Ragging NGO, Society Against Violence in Education (SAVE) has supported that ragging is also widely and dangerously prevalent in Engineering and other institutions, mainly in the hostels.

Following a Supreme Court Order, a National Anti-Ragging Helpline was created which helps the victims and take action in cases of ragging, by informing the Head of the Institution and the local police authorities of the ragging complaint from the college. The main feature of the helpline is that the complaints can be registered even without disclosing the name by the victim, through email at helpline@antiragging.in, or through phone at 1800-180-5522.

Anti-Ragging Helpline and Anonymous Complaints

India's National Anti-Ragging Helpline started working in June 2009 to help students in distress due to ragging. It consists of an email id and a 24 hour toll free number, where it is not necessary for the student to tell his or her name, although it is advisable that the students register the complaints in their name. Provision for anonymous complaints was consider of utmost important at the time of establishment of the helpline, since the victim after making the complaint remains with or in the close vicinity of the culprits, away from a fully secure environment. Since many ragging deaths, like Aman Kachroo's,¹ occurred due to seniors taking a revenge of the complaint made, anonymous complaints were equally allowed at the helpline.

Within 15 minutes of receiving the complaint, it is forwarded to the Head of the institution and the local police authorities through phone and email, who take prompt action against the perpetrators of ragging.¹The functioning of the helpline is monitored by an

independent NGO, at present Aman Movement, which lists all the complaints received and the action taken on them.

There has been a change in the email id of the helpline, from helpline @antiragging.net to helpline@antiragging.in.¹The second email id is in working condition since 2012, when the portal antiragging.in was launched.

The helpline provides a complaint number to each victim, and the victim should inquire about the action taken within 24 to 48 hours.

As per UGC regulations, it is mandatory for a college to register an F.I.R. with police against the culprits if any violence, physical abuse, sexual harassment, confinement etc. takes place with any fresher. After receiving any such complaint from the Helpline, it becomes the duty of the Head of the institution to register the F.I.R. with police within 24 hours. In 2013, a police case was registered against the Director, Dean and Registrar of a reputed college in Delhi for, among other charges, not informing the police and registering F.I.R. within 24 hours of receiving the ragging complaint. (failing to inform a public authority, IPC 176).

The database of the Anti-Ragging Helpline indicates that it has been to an extent successful in ensuring a safer environment in colleges from where it registered the complaints. In many a cases though, it forwarded the complaint to the University Grants Commission (UGC) for an action against those colleges which refused to take any action against the culprits.

Controversy

A major concern that was highlighted against the helpline was that it registered a minuscule percentage (0.1%) of the total phone calls it received, and that meant it registered complaint in one out of one thousand calls it received. Specifically, the toll-free helpline (1800-180-5522) received 165,297 calls in the three months of November 2012 to January 2013, hence 77 calls an hour and at least a call a minute. But, only 190 complaints were registered in this period. In its defence the helpline said that most of the calls it received were of inquiry in nature, of the eager students to know whether the helpline number worked or not. Many a times students changed their minds also midway not to register the complaint.¹ It also said that many of the calls were hoaxes as it was a toll-free number

Anonymity

Amid such concerns in media that the helpline staff may be sometimes avoiding registration of complaints, registering through email at helpline@antiragging.in is generally considered best since receiving an email cannot be avoided. This is also a good way for those students wishing to register the complaint without disclosing their names, as after making an anonymous email id students send their complaints to the helpline, as shown by the helpline database. Such anonymous complaints though, may be registered at the helpline number 1800-180-5522 also In some cases, as reported by the helpline database, the colleges did not take action in complaints filed with fake names, citing that no such fresher was a student's of the college, whereas action was taken in complaints filed in an anonymous name, such as '5 fresher's of Engineering'.

Nevertheless, the helpline has been to an extent effective in ensuring action against the culprits, and ensuring a safer environment at education institutions at least in the cases it

registers, although regular news appearing in media of ragging incidents warrants it to be even more effective

Mention by Eminent Persons

So many people believe that ragging is just a very small problem in India. This perception is because those who face most brutal form of ragging, never speak up generally. The legendary Bollywood actor **Amitabh Bachchan** in a media appearance said, "Ragging has happened with me too. I passed out my college in the 60s, and at that time also, ragging was existent in colleges, sometimes worse... I really can't tell you guys what kind of ragging I have been through. Please don't ask me."

The ace cricketer **Suresh Raina** candidly reveals a ragging past in many interviews to the media. He says, "I remember in the college hostel (Guru Gobind Singh Sports College, Lucknow) in the first year maine bahot maar khayi hai. Khoob pitayi karte the seniors (The seniors used to heavily beat me). There used to be a lot of ragging. I've washed so many clothes I don't even remember. "In another interview, Suresh Raina's brother Dinesh Raina reveals, "Suresh's cricketing career could have ended within six months of his joining the Sports College... shaken by the experience, the young boy became withdrawn.... He was so shocked and nervous that he never wanted to go back to the (sports) college. He stayed at home for nearly six months, but I finally talked him out of it. I spoke to his coaches in Lucknow and only after getting complete assurance did I take Suresh back to the college." Had it not been for his elder brother Dinesh, Suresh Raina would have returned to his home in Muradnagar and a promising cricketing career would have been nipped in the bud, due to ragging.

The management guru **Arindam Chaudhary** writes about his IIT Delhi friends "Well, their first months in IIT were traumatic to say the least. They would cry in front of me. They couldn't take in the humiliation of ragging. The humiliation of being stripped totally naked and being made to run around the IIT Delhi campus... The engineering and medical colleges of India are the havens of the worst possible ragging in this country."

Shakti Kapoor, a Kirori Mal College (Delhi) alumnus, didn't attend college for 10 days after a few seniors tried to rag him. "I studied in KMC, the same college where Amitabh Bachchan studied. Ragging was common then. I remember a group of ... seniors tried to rag me. They took me to the hostel and wanted to do something weird with me. They asked me to pull my pants down and go around the college. But I escaped," he recalled.. Another example how sexual ragging has been prevalent in Indian colleges even in 1960s.

Anurag Kashyap, Bollywood writer-producer-director was the youngest in his class at the Scindia School, Gwalior. He was often at the receiving end of severe ragging. He would run and hide in the school library. Sexually abused and bullied as a child, he brooded over his anguish – for years. Kashyap says, "Sexual abuse is common in schools, especially residential ones... Then, I was deeply affected by it" adding, "As a direct effect [of the abuse in school], I built muscle in college, started playing sports, and would often be seen with a hockey stick in hand. I would get out of the oppressive college cliques, forming my own parallel world, all the while protecting those who weren't strong enough," he says. An example how brutal, sexual ragging distorts the minds of young.

Another Bollywood actor **Arjun Rampal** reveals that in the summer of 1990 he walked into his college and had mistakenly asked a senior to carry his luggage into the hostel. The actor was subsequently ragged for a long time and vowed never to rag his juniors in turn. Rampal is admittedly very much against ragging and considers it to be equal to a full-fledged crime.¹

Sujit Saraf, a California-based filmmaker and playwright studied at the IIT-Delhi between 1987 and '92. He reveals "we crawled on all fours and barked like dogs; we brought cigarettes and Campa Cola for our seniors; we cleaned their rooms; we dropped our trousers so they could measure our penises; we formed human trains — each car holding the penis of the car in front — and whistled our way through hostel corridors; we simulated orgies; stripped naked"

Noted filmmaker **Imtiaz Ali** has a similar experience, "In college, a lot of guys had stripped me naked during the ragging... At that time it was terrible....Craziest thing I've ever done – we've all walked naked...in those days ... it was part of mass ragging that everyone had to do"

Prakash Rajpurohit, ranked 4th in IIT-JEE 2003 and later IAS second topper, ran away from IIT Delhi hostel hitting the headlines. In his complaint lodged with the police, Rajpurohit had said students were asked among other things to enact a honeymoon scene, strip and consume alcohol.

Manish Gupta, Movie Director, says "I was a day-boarder in an engineering college in Bandra and my friends who stayed in the hostels were forced into sodomy with other boys as part of a ragging ritual"

Rahul Dev, Movie Actor, says "I did my engineering from Bangalore and stayed in a hostel there. Though the seniors with their presence sparked off fear telling us to jump around holding our crotches, we challenged them and did not give in to their unreasonable demands. But I can't describe the tension that we went through at that moment. There were times when juniors were made to wear kurta-pyjama and rubber slippers and roam around the college campus. Let me tell you that is not a good feeling and can damage your esteem for life."

Sona Mohapatra, Singer reveals, "I was horribly ragged in my engineering college in Odisha. Ragging is deplorable, and must be banned. Be it physical, mental, minor or major, ragging is a very perverted show of power, control and humiliation, and not way of getin anyone to join a community and blend into it. There are more interesting ways of doing that."

Legislation

In 1997, the state of Tamil Nadu first passed laws related to ragging Subsequently, a major boost to anti-ragging efforts was given by a landmark judgement of the Supreme Court of India in May 2001, in response to a Public Interest Litigation filed by the Vishwa Jagriti Mission.

The Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD), following a directive by the Supreme court, appointed a seven member panel headed by ex-CBI director Dr. R. K. Raghavan to recommend anti-ragging measures. The Raghavan Committee report,^[25] submitted to the court in May 2007, includes a proposal to include ragging as a special section under the Indian Penal Code. The Supreme Court of India interim order (based on the recommendations) dated 16 May 2007 makes it obligatory for academic institutions to file official First Information Reports with

the police in any instance of a complaint of ragging. This would ensure that all cases would be formally investigated under criminal justice system, and not by the academic institutions own ad-hoc bodies.

The Indian Supreme Court has taken a strong stand to prevent ragging. In 2006, the court directed the H.R.D. Ministry of the Govt. of India to form a panel which will suggest guidelines to control ragging.

The panel, headed by the former director of C.B.I. Dr. R.K.Raghavan, met victims, guardians and others across the country. The Raghavan committee has placed its recommendation to the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which has given its order on the issue. Welcoming the Supreme Court's recent judgment on ragging Dr. Raghavan, the former CBI director, who is the chairman, Monitoring Committee for the Prevention of Ragging, said, "there are finally signs that the recommendations to prevent ragging in colleges will be taken seriously."

Supreme Court in 2007 directed that all the higher educational institutions should include information about all the ragging incidents in their brochures/prospectus of admission.

UGC Regulation on Curbing The Menace of Ragging in Higher Education Institutions, 2009

In 2009, in the wake of Aman Kachroo's death, University Grants Commission (UGC) passed UGC REGULATION ON CURBING THE MENACE OF RAGGING IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, 2009. These regulation mandate every college responsibilities to curb the menace of ragging, including strict pre-emptive measures, like lodging freshers in a separate hostel, surprise raids especially at nights by the anti-ragging squad and submission of affidavits by all senior students and their parents taking oath not to indulge in ragging. The main features of the regulations are:

Responsibilities of Educational Institutions

1. Applicable to ALL higher educational institutions, imparting education beyond 12 years of schooling.

BEFORE AND DURING ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION:

2. **Every public declaration, brochure of admission/instruction booklet** or the prospectus to print these regulations in full.
3. **Telephone numbers** of the Anti-Ragging Helpline and all the important functionaries in the institution, members of the Anti-Ragging Committees and Anti-Ragging Squads etc. to be published in **brochure of admission/instruction booklet** or the prospectus.
- 4 Every student and his/her parents to file an **affidavit** avowing not to indulge in ragging.
- 5.The institution to prominently display posters detailing laws and punishment against ragging.
6. Anti-ragging squad to ensure **vigil at odd hours** during first few months at hostels, inside institution premises as well as privately commercially managed hostels.

AFTER ADMISSION:

7. **Printed leaflet** to be given to every fresher detailing addresses and telephone numbers of the Anti-Ragging Helpline, Wardens, Head of the institution, all members of the anti-ragging squads and committees, and relevant district and police authorities.
8. Identity of **informants** of ragging incidents to be fully protected.
9. Faculty members assigned to students to make **surprise visits** and to maintain a diary of his/her interaction with the freshers.
10. Freshers to be lodged, as far as may be, in a **separate hostel block**.
11. Head of the institution, at the end of each academic year, to send a letter to the parents/guardians of the students who are completing their first year in the institution informing them about these Regulations.

ANTI-RAGGING COMMITTEE and ANTI-RAGGING SQUAD

12. Anti-Ragging Committee to be nominated and headed by the Head of the institution, and consisting of 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 etc.
13. Duty of the Anti-Ragging Committee to ensure compliance with the provisions of these Regulations
14. Anti-Ragging Squad to be nominated by the Head of the Institution for maintaining vigil, oversight and **patrolling** functions and shall remain mobile, alert and active at all times.
15. Anti-Ragging Squad to make **surprise raids** on hostels.
16. Discreet random surveys to be conducted amongst the freshers every fortnight during the first three months.
17. The Heads of institutions affiliated to a University or a constituent of the University to submit a **weekly report** on the status of compliance with Anti-Ragging measures and a monthly report on such status thereafter, to the Vice-Chancellor of the University.
18. The Vice-Chancellor of each University to submit **fortnightly reports**, including those of the Monitoring Cell on Ragging in case of an affiliating university, to the State Level Monitoring Cell.

COMPLAINT OF RAGGING

19. **First Information Report (FIR)** to be filed within **twenty four hours** of receipt of such information or complaint of ragging, with the police and local authorities.
20. Head of the institution to forthwith report the incident of ragging to the District Level Anti-Ragging Committee and the Nodal officer.
21. Institution shall also continue with its own enquiry and remedial action to be completed with-in seven days.

Responsibility of University Grants Commission (UGC)

1. The **Commission to verify that the institutions strictly comply** with the requirement of getting the affidavits from the students and their parents/guardians as envisaged under these Regulations.
2. The Commission to make it mandatory for the institutions to incorporate in their **prospectus**, the anti-ragging directions of the Central Government or the State Level Monitoring Committee
3. The **Commission to maintain an appropriate data base** to be created out of affidavits, and such database to also function as a record of ragging complaints received, and the status of the action taken thereon.
4. The Commission shall make available the database to a non-governmental agency
5. The Commission to include a specific condition in the **Utilization Certificate**, in respect of any financial assistance or grants-in-aid to any institution, that the institution has complied with the anti-ragging measures.
6. The **Commission to constitute an Inter-Council Committee** to co-ordinate and **monitor** the anti-ragging measures in institutions across the country.
7. The Commission to institute an **Anti-Ragging Cell** within the Commission to provide secretarial support for collection of information and monitoring, and to co-ordinate with the State Level Monitoring Cell and University level Committees for effective implementation of anti-ragging measures

Ragging: Prohibition, Prevention and Punishment

The University Grants Commission vide its letter no F.1-16/2007 (CPP-II) dated June 17, 2009 has reiterated the ban on ragging of students in Institutions of Higher Learning. The students are therefore directed to strictly desist from any kind of ragging.

Forms of Ragging

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

Punishment for Participation in/or Abetment of Ragging

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, youth festival, etc.
7. Suspension/expulsion from the hostel.
8. Rustication from the institution for periods varying from 1 to 4 semesters or Equivalent period.

9. Expulsion from the institution and consequent debarring from admission to any other institution.
10. Fine up to Rs. 25,000/

Use of Right To Information

Despite all these legislations, the implementation has been slow on the part of the educational institutions. Many anti-ragging activists have advocated use of right to information (RTI) by the fresher's/ victims to ensure that the institutions follow the rules to curb ragging strictly. For example, one of the strongest reasons for ragging to happen is that the raggers are dead sure that parents would never ever get to know their heinous acts. The affidavit filed by parents to the institution has the name, address and telephone numbers of the parents of the senior students. A fresher can file RTI applications, even without disclosing identity by using a friend's help and name, to get a copy of this affidavit, and then call/ write himself or make his parents talk to ragger's parents to rein in him. Also, the college and the UGC can be made to follow the anti-ragging measures strictly by the use of RTI. Once freshers take courage and start doing that, it is a general feeling that ragging may drastically reduce in India, as every student will become a soldier in the fight against ragging. Sample RTI applications have also been posted by some of the anti-ragging websites to help students in that.

Anti-ragging movement

With the situation of ragging worsening yearly, there is emerging a spontaneous anti-ragging movement in India. Several voluntary organisations have emerged, who conduct drives for public awareness and arrange for support to victims.

Online groups like Coalition to Uproot Ragging from India (CURE), Stop ragging, No Ragging Foundation became the major Anti Ragging groups on the Internet. Among them, the No Ragging Foundation has transformed into a complete NGO and got registered as Society Against Violence in Education (SAVE) which is India's first registered Anti Ragging non profit organisation (NGO). These groups are working on issues related to ragging. Each of them is running anti ragging websites and online groups.

The Indian media has been playing a crucial role by exposing ragging incidents and the indifference of many concerned institutions towards curbing the act. The Supreme Court of India has directed, in its interim judgement, that action may be taken even against negligent institutions.

Guide Lines Laid Down by Supreme Court Recently

Latest Supreme Court Guidelines on Ragging Following the death of 19year-old medical student Aman Kachroo at Dr. Rajendra Prasad

Medical College in Himachal Pradesh, a Supreme Court Bench comprising of Justice Arijit Pasayat and Justice A.K. Ganguly has recently issued strict guidelines to prevent the menace of ragging in colleges and educational institutions. The Supreme Court was also hearing another case in Bapatla Agriculture Engineering College in Andhra Pradesh where a 20-year-old girl, attempted suicide due to ragging. The apex court had earlier appointed a committee headed by former CBI director R K Raghvan to look into the matter. Most of the

recommendations of the said committee find a place in the guidelines. The salient features of the guidelines include:

- The head of the educational institution and the jurisdictional police chief will be held responsible, if any ragging case is reported in their area. A national level committee will be formed to suggest remedial measures in the school curriculum.
- Immediate suspension of the senior students indulged in ragging.
- Departmental action against all heads of institutions where ragging takes place.
- High level security in all hostel premises and a strict vigil to be maintained.
- Fresher's to be divided into small groups and will be affiliated to individual teachers.
- All colleges should hire psychiatrists to sensitize senior students, fresher and staff against ragging.
- Panels must be set up to check the increasing incidents of ragging and rampant alcoholism in universities and colleges.
- Students who indulge in ragging under the influence of alcohol must be sent to de-addiction centers.
- Each state should have an anti-ragging committee, and anyone indulging in ragging must be given psychological treatment.

The apex court has also directed all state governments to give an undertaking about the steps taken by them to eradicate ragging.

Role Of Educational Institution

Role of educational institution is all what can be effectively used to curb ragging , accordingly an educational institution provides “young India” which is the future of the nation as well. So as to consider petitions regarding the ragging cases majority of them being cases of grievous injuries and some of them causing death as well Justice Lahoti guided certain guidelines that is to be followed by every institutions. Accordingly court laid down guidelines pursuant to 2001 judgment

Recent Ragging Incidents

2012 College of Engineering and Management, Kolaghat

A first-year student of electronics and instrumentation at Kolaghat engineering college was allegedly assaulted by his seniors outside the college campus while the West Midnapore boy was on his way back home. On 29 August, seniors with their faces covered slashed the boy's arm, neck and back and threatened him with dire consequences if he ever returned to the college. His parents lodged a complaint with the college director Naredra Nath Jana and Kolaghat police on Monday.

This isn't the first time that Subhro Samanta, a bright student from Daspur resident, has met with such fate.

"My son often used to complain of being assaulted and tortured by seniors. We told him that it was a passing phase and urged him to concentrate on his studies," Subhro's father Tapas Samanta said. Jana has ordered a probe into the attack

Oxford College of Science and Management, Bangalore

A second-year student of Management, Shobhonesh Naskar died due to ragging done by his own roommates. The college is denying the case since it may deteriorate the reputation. C.I D investigation is in progress. According to the father of Mr. Shobhonesh, on 13 February 2012, his roommates threw him down from roof while he was talking to his mother.

Ragging Deaths

2010

- **Nagedra AV**, 25, was found dead in Chandigarh's prestigious Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research on 19 April. The doctor had joined this post-graduate institution just two months ago. The police said he jumped to death from the hostel building, his father said he had been pushed. His father said a day ago he had said he was finding it difficult to continue there due to ragging.
- **Sinmoi Debroy**, 21, was found hanging from the ceiling fan, dead, in his hostel room in Chennai on 4 April. It was a private hostel shared by students of various colleges. Most of the 42 SMSes in the Assamese engineering student's mobile phone were threats and abuses from seniors, who also demanded money.
- **Ajub Ajith**, 19, hanged himself to death from the ceiling fan in his house in Thiruvananthapuram on 31 March. He was a student of at the Sarabhai Institute of Science and Technology. He had told his mother that he was being ragged badly, but prevented her from complaining to the principal as, he said, that would make matters worse for him.
- **Satwinder Kumar**, 28, ended his life on 3 March. He was a student of the Advanced Training Institute, Mumbai. In his suicide note he named seven seniors who had ragged him so much that he left for home for Kurukshetra rather than take mid-term exams. Before he could reach home, he committed suicide by throwing himself before a goods train in Rajasthan's Jhalawar district
- **Premlatha**, 22, committed suicide by consuming sulphuric acid in the chemistry lab of the B.S.Abdur Rahman Crescent Engineering College on 5 February. Her brother singled out one senior, Yogesh, 22, a fourth year student, as the person ragging her the most.
- **Gaurav Sadanand Raut**, 22, strangulated himself to death on 9 February in his hostel room in Nashik's Maratha Vidya Prasarak Samaj Medical College. His father named his roommates Mandhar Monde and Anil Kavade as the culprits. Although the police detained four students, the local NCP MLA, Vasant Pawar, also the general secretary of the college body, denied that the student had been ragged.

2009

- **Anusha** Hyderabad 5 November Anonymous said... (6 November 2009). "Ragging News From Indian Colleges: College girl leaps to death due to ragging". amarujala.com. Retrieved 1 September 2010.</ref>

- **Ayan Adak** Kolkata 9 October 2009¹
- On 7 March, **Aman Kachroo**, 19, a first year student of Dr Rajendra Prasad Medical College, Tanda, Kangra, HP, India, had repeatedly complained to his parents about the brutal ragging that took place on the Medical College campus – often by completely drunk third-year students. On Friday night and Saturday morning (6–7 March 2009), the boy was beaten so badly that he died of brain haemorrhage.¹

2008

- In September–December 2008, a student of Institute of Management Technology, Ghaziabad was ragged by 3 of his seniors, namely, Ravi Shankar, a resident of Vadodara; Naveen Tomar, from Hisar; and Ajmer resident P C Gupta. The victim (name withheld) complained that three fellow management students at IMT-Ghaziabad forced him to undress and threw lit matchsticks at his private parts in the campus on 27 September. The Ghaziabad police initially refused to register his complaint, but finally lodged a case on Thursday (4 December) after intervention from the Ghaziabad SSP.

2007

- On 18 September **Durgesh Shukla** hanged himself from a ceiling fan in his hostel room in Pioneer College, Bhopal. He blamed seniors in his suicide note.
- On 8 August **Manjot Singh**, an MBBS student, committed suicide by consuming a poisonous substance. He did so at his residence in Chandigarh, due to ragging in his hostel at the Government Medical College, Chandigarh.
- On 20 September **Chetan Raj**, 18, committed suicide in **Mysore**. His body was found hanging from the roof of his lodge room. He had already complained to his parents that he was being ragged in his college.

2006

- In November **S. P. Manoj** committed suicide in his hostel room at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Technology, Hyderabad.
- On 5 November **Azad Nair**, 22, a cadet at the Officer's Training Academy (OTA) in Chennai. He had hanged himself from the fan of his room. Prior to his suicide he had told his brother Soumendu over telephone that he was being ragged and humiliated at the OTA and he had pleaded to his father Padmanabhan Nair to rescue him from the OTA.
- **Ashoke Chaudhury**

2005

- On 14 December **C Abraham**, a first year engineering student, hanged himself to death at his residence in Hyderabad. In his suicide note, he mentioned that he was not interested in studies. His parents suspected his suicide to be a result of ragging.
- On 5 December **Sridhar**, 18, hanged himself to the ceiling fan in his hostel room in Chennai. In the English press, only one newspaper in Mumbai reported the incident.

- In July **Kamlesh Sarkar**, 19, committed suicide in a private hotel management institute in Kalyani, Nadia district, West Bengal. The police filed an unnatural death case and not one of ragging.

2004

- On 19 December **Mohan Karthik Tripathy**, 19, hanged himself from a ceiling fan in his hostel room at the SKR Engineering College in Tambaram, Tamil Nadu. His written complaint about ragging to the college authorities had gone unheeded. He had been forced to bathe in his own urine.
- In June, **Sushil Kumar Pandey**, 18, hanged himself to death after the humiliation of being paraded naked by his seniors at the Madan Mohan Malviya Engineering College, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Aakriti Dhar**
- **Ehsan Saba**

2002

- In September **Anup Kumar**, 19, committed suicide by hanging himself from a ceiling fan at his residence in Kanpur. In his suicide note, Anup said that he was going through mental agony due to the sexual harassment by second-year students of the Institute of Engineering and Technology, Lucknow, in the name of ragging.

1996

- Pon Navarasu was murdered by senior student John David. David, a second year medical student, brutally murdered Navarasu, a first year MBBS student of Muthaiah Medical College, Annamalai University, Chidambaram and son of former Madras University vice-chancellor P K Ponnusamy, during a ragging session in his (John David's) hostel room on the night of 6 November 1996. Naavarasu had refused to submit to... a humiliating demand, in the name of ragging, to lick the soles of his chappals. The 19-year old senior used his karate skills to fatally attack Naavarasu. He then dismembered the body, cut it into pieces with surgical instruments and dispensed with them in different parts of the state...

DISCUSSION

The Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD), tailing a directive via the Supreme court, nominated a 7 member subdivision supervised via ex-CBI director Dr. R. K. Raghavan towards tell anti-ragging measures. The Raghavan Committee report, offered inside the direction of the court inside May 2007, encompasses a framework inside the direction of include ragging as a unprecedented podium underneath the Indian Penal Code. The Supreme Court of India provisional regulation (based on the recommendations) attracted May 16, 2007 acquires it obligatory for well written compositions towards record authorized First Information Reports with the policeman within any presentation of a grievance of ragging. This would ensure that every person cases would be officially scrutinized below criminal law system, and not via the academic institutions owned ad-hoc bodies. With the positions of ragging diminishing yearly,

there does seem a spontaneous anti-ragging motion within India. Several voluntary administration have emerged, who behave engines for communal perceptions and coordinate for boost towards victims

SUGGSTIONS AND CONCLUSSION

In our country, Ragging it is a one of the most dangerous hindrance to education system and can be eminently curbed if the people concerned that are parents, teachers, judiciary, law persons put it on their first and consider it as the threat to whole society. In this paper research shows that the number of cases is getting lesser and lesser but still cases have been observed among which many of them are not reported and finally results in suicide which shows that still the system is failing to curb it to which I strongly suggest following :

- Primary responsibility for cubing ragging rests with academic institution themselves \
- Ragging adversely impacts the standards of higher education therefore Incentives should be available to institutions for curbing this 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. But one my strong contentions is that “in this race of competition “many education institution seems to work for their own profit and treat it as their only means of livelihood, to which they are more often concerned about their institutes image rather than providing education which in turn leaves many cases hidden and are put over outsiders and to which even the judiciary has no answers and if not are left on the student arguing that student was not able to take the pressure of studies. Therefore the hypothesis carried throughout the research proves to be correct implying that in the present era, the guidelines given by the by SC and UGC are followed whole heartedly in the favour of carriers of students but the second hypothesis left in an unanswerable state though cases of reported ragging have been reduced but not totally avoided so I can be concluded there must be some loop holes in the implementation of anti-ragging measures.

REFERENCES

1. Amba Batra (22 July 2004). "Victim of IIT ragging prepares to help freshers". [Indian Express].
2. Harsh Agarwal Et Al. (May 16, 2007). "Ragging In India: Incidents, Social Perceptions And Psychological Perspectives"
3. Honbl. Supreme Court interim order on Ragging. Supreme Court of India.
4. http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2009-06-21/india/28166143_1_anti-ragging-helpline-raj-kachroo-education-consultancy-india
5. <http://www.antiragging.in>

6. <http://www.mid-day.com/news/2012/aug/090812-mumbai-Anti-ragging-helpline-1-6-lakh-dialled-but-only-1400-complained.htm>
7. <http://www.ugc.ac.in/page/Helpline.aspx>
8. Prof. Arindam Chaudhuri (9 December 2010). "It's We Parents and Teachers Who Create Ragers Out of Our Children". [Business and Economy]. Retrieved 26 October 2011.
9. Raghavan Committee Recommendation Report (PDF). Human Resource Development Ministry, Government of India.
10. Shakti Kapoor: Ragged in KMC. [The Times of India]. Retrieved 31 March 2014.
11. Supreme Court of India Judgment 2001
12. The Terror Called Ragging. Society Against Violence in Education (SAVE). UGC Anti-Ragging Regulation ||| See Point 7". UGC. 12 October 2009