

## **Ragging claims 10 innocent lives in the last four years**

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Ragging, commonly believed to be harmless fun has a fierce darker side, which manifests in form of severe sexual torture and infliction of physical injury. This inhuman form of ragging is largely widespread in colleges, more in ones having hostels. Nothing speaks louder than the fact that ragging has claimed more than 10 innocent lives in the last four years.

The following representative list of suicide cases and ragging deaths underscores this deep malaise prevalent in the Indian educational system today:

- Kamlesh Sarkar (19) a hotel management student in Kalyani in Nadia district committed suicide due to severe ragging. (Jul. 2005)
- Mohan Karthik Tripathy (19), S.K.R. Engineering College, Tamil Nadu, was found hanging from in his hostel room. The parents of the victim had given a written complaint against ragging to college authorities and no action was taken. A broken father blamed “ragging and the indifference of management” for his son's death (Dec. 2004)
- Ehsan Saba from Manipal Engineering College in Mangalore was beaten up and forcibly pushed into the sea where he drowned. He met with this fate since he refused to enter the sea on the command of the seniors. (Aug. 2004)
- Lokesh Yadav, Bilaspur Medical College committed suicide after being severely ragged. (Jan. 2004)
- Anuj Khargar (19) of MGM Medical College, Indore , Madhya Pradesh attempted suicide. He was stripped and severely beaten by his seniors. (Dec. 2003)
- Pranali Dhanvijay, Topiwala Medical College, Mumbai committed suicide due to severe ragging. (Oct. 2003)
- Parmeshwar, a student at Birla Institute of Technology, Ranchi committed suicide. He reportedly suffered from depression following severe ragging. His suicide note read, *“This is the last day of my life...Neither could I be a good son nor a good boy. There is no other reason for my death. I love you Babuji.”* (Sep. 2003)
- Sushil Kumar Pandey (18) of Madan Mohan Malviya Engineering College committed suicide following severe ragging. (Sep. 2003)

Anup Kapoor of IET, Lucknow and Govardhan of Agri. College at Mahanadi, AP are others who lost life in the name of ragging in 2001-03.

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TEN suicides (including one attempt) in the last four years! These students could not cope up with what they had to face. There are thousands more who just give in and compromise to the loss of their self-respect and dignity.

Did someone say that ragging, as prevalent today, promotes interaction?