

## 2005-06: Ragging strikes yet again...

### 21+ ragging cases reported, 3 ragging deaths

The academic year 2005-06 once again reiterated that ragging is alive and kicking. If ragging deaths are any indication, three students committed suicide this year. This equals or worsens the record of 10 ragging deaths in the previous 4 years. One is left thinking, how something casted by media as 'fun and interaction' can lead an 18-19 years old lad to end his life in ways such as jumping in front of a train.

More than 21 cases of ragging were reported this year, each one of them uglier and inhumanly beyond imagination. Kerela was left shocked when a first year B.Sc. student was gang-raped in the name of ragging. In other incidents, Alam was thrown of the window of his first floor room; boys were made to strip and girls were forced to stay present.

Of all the cases reported, an alarming 43% led to serious physical injury and hospitalization. Senior students didn't even spare Nithin, who is partially deaf and a heart patient. He was beaten severely

#### "I will not let them get away with it"

Raja keeps on repeating this every time he remembers two of his seniors. Raja, now confined to a small room in his house is undergoing extensive psychological treatment. A result of 6 months of continuous public abuse and repeated beating...

leading to hospitalization. These trends indicate a grave scenario where one set of students find it 'a way of life' to severely beat another set of students just a year younger to them, studying in the same college as them.

Sexual abuse included stripping, forced masturbation and in what can be believed to be a freak incident, rape. More than 30% cases exemplified how organized sexual torture of juniors by seniors is widespread. Almost half of the total incidents reported led to police involvement and around 15% cases initiated in-college fighting and politics. It seems we are on threshold of a new era, where college disciplinary system is insufficient to maintain the ethos of a healthy society. Instead, the state police, which was earlier reserved for the goons, is required to civilize well-educated students.

In context to the kind of colleges, 5 incidents were reported from engineering colleges, 3 from medical or related colleges, while the rest 13 were from non-professional colleges. 2 of the suicides were in Eng. Colleges, while one in a hotel management institute.

In a separate survey conducted by Deccan Herald and

- More than 21 cases reported
- 3 ragging deaths
- 9 cases of physical injury and hospitalization (43%)
- 7 cases of sexual abuse (33%)
- 7 cases of severe mental trauma leading to hospitalization/suicide. (33%)
- 10 cases of police involvement. (45%)

#### Ragging at its ugliest .....

Nov 22: **Gang rape** of Ist year B.Sc. student on the name of ragging.

Oct. 19: Boys asked to **strip in classroom**. Girls forced to remain present. On resistance, severe beating leading to hospitalization. (In Dehradun)

Aug 29: Anirudh driven to state of shock and speechlessness, **under psychiatric treatment**. (Orissa)

Aug 5: Abhishek and Riyaz asked to strip, dance and **masturbate on camera**, asked to parade naked to girl's hostel. (Delhi)

Dec 7: Nithin, **partially deaf and heart patient**, asked to imitate pornographic postures, beaten leading to hospitalization. (Thiruvantapuram)

Aug. 31: Alam beaten and **thrown off window** of his first floor room.

Aug. 26: **Raja becomes insane** due to 6 months of prolonged ragging. (Madhya Pradesh)

*Many more cases of sexual abuse and violence*

**Read news.norragging.com for details of all 21 incidents.**

Research Intl. focused on Karnataka, out of 300 students 17% freshers reported sexual abuse and 20% students in non-professional colleges were physically or mentally affected.

These reports paint a disturbing picture of college life in India marred by ragging. It is clear that ragging is not an isolated problem, but intertwined with violence and sexual experimentation/abuse traits in Indian youth. Is the tradition of ragging fanning these traits, is the question to ask.

The statistics available right now are insufficient, for no interpolation can be made as to the real number of ragging incidents compared to those reported. However, these statistics indicate an emergency-like-situation. The development of the youth of the country has taken a scary freaky path under the guise of ragging. Violence, mental abuse, sexual exploitation/experimentation and tendency for sadistic pleasure are being exhibited or being forced on the youth.

There is an immediate need to do surveys and systematic studies to understand the real extent and form of ragging and apply corrective measures. In parallel, efforts are needed to spread awareness and guide students not to indulge in ragging. CURE, Coalition to Uproot Ragging from Education is a unique attempt in this direction.

**"They are made naked and ordered to do bad things. This all has brought me to this point. I can't tell it even to my parents. It is not justified but I can't bear it any more."**

*Amit (photo right) committed suicide on 11 October 2005 by jumping in front of a moving train*

