



RAGGING - A SOCIAL MENACE

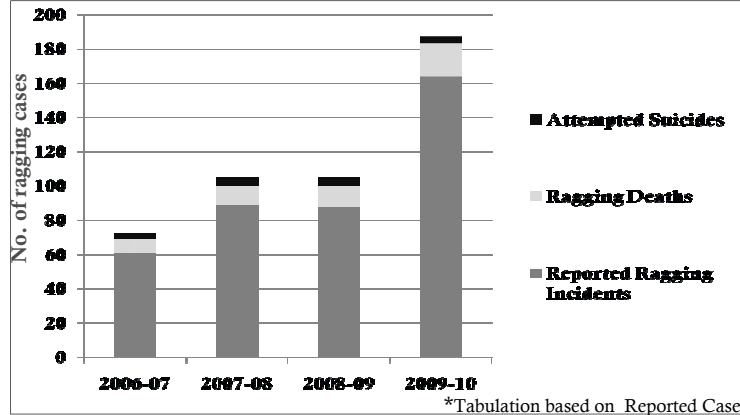
CURE : Coalition to Uproot Ragging from Education

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Has ragging reached its pinnacle or is the worst yet to come? How many more lives will it claim before our society wakes up?

Ragging is a traditional and systematic human rights abuse practiced by seniors upon freshers. Several years of existence of ragging has done irreparable damage. It has led to injury, permanent disability, forced victims to leave their institutes and claimed multiple lives of young students. It includes :

- Verbal Abuse
- Severe Physical Injuries
- Sexual Abuse

Not only this, the horrendous and final outcome is the **Victim's DEATH !!**

All this in the name of ragging....**IS IT JUSTIFIED ??**



RAGGERS ARE:

- ◇ NOT COOL
- ◇ NOT FRIENDLY
- ◇ NOT POPULAR
- ◇ NOT RESPECTED
- ◇ NOT SECURE
- ◇ NOT BRAVE
- √ ALL OF THE ABOVE

Nayan, a medical student, was waiting at Uluberia station to catch a train home when four seniors grabbed him and took him to a house in the locality, once inside, the door was barred and the torture began. Nayan was beaten and forced to smoke a cigarette. An unknown drug was forced down his throat. Then, his wrists were slashed with a razor. Finally, one of the seniors asked another to fetch an empty syringe. As Nayan desperately struggled, he was held down and air was injected into his left hand. Unable to take the humiliation, he tried to commit suicide and eventually ended his life in the second attempt. (2009)

DID YOU KNOW ??

There are 4-5 ragging cases reported from schools every year.

PHYSICAL ABUSE!

A first year student of NIET was beaten, abused and his head shaved off at gunpoint for refusing to be ragged!

First year B.tech student was admitted to hospital after being brutally assaulted by seniors.

SEXUAL ABUSE!

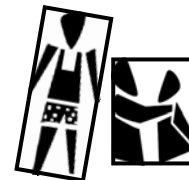
A 13 year old at Sri Venkateswara Veda Patashala in Dharmagiri was sexually harassed by three seniors.

First year student gangraped in the name of Ragging in Kerala.

SUICIDES!!

Murli Sharma, a seventh standard boy committed suicide in a local hostel room in Bhilwara after being ragged by four students.

A first year medical student of Patna Medical College hanged himself after being ragged!



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EVIL CALLED RAGGING - This could be your story.....

To a mother, nothing is more important than her child's happiness. All my prayers finally bore fruit when Gaurav**(name changed to maintain privacy)*, my son, finally got through one of the best medical colleges in the country. I was so proud of him, I remember I just couldn't wipe the smile off my face or contain the tears in my eyes that day. My son was going to be a doctor, just like his father and his grandfather.

I could not believe the fact that not only was my son intelligent and accomplished compared to his peers, he also was an extremely social and an affable boy.

It was fun bonding with Gaurav in the last few days before he left. We went out shopping, buying new clothes and nick-knacks. **The day Gaurav was leaving, my heart swelled with pride, the confidence of an achiever engulfing my entire being.**

Gaurav's father was dropping him to the college. I kissed him one last time and watched them till I could see their backs entering the Airport gates. When Gaurav's father came back home, he assured me that he had comfortably settled Gaurav in his hostel room. Gaurav called up later that evening and chatted about his new friends and college. I could feel the excitement in his voice.

After that I could not get through Gaurav's number for the next 2-3 days. Every time he did not pick up my call, instead of getting worried, I thought that Gaurav was taking up his studies so seriously, that he did not even have the time to talk to me. He eventually called me up on Sunday. He sounded tired and weary, as if all the energy had been snapped out of him. I tried to cheer him up and reminded him that medicine is not an easy profession. But then he tried to tell me something... something about feeling hurt and humiliated and wanting to come back home. But I brushed it aside, thinking that all the hard work had taken a toll on him and he was looking for reasons to come home.

However I wish I had paid more attention...

After that, every time, either I or his father would speak to him, we were met with subdued silence and monosyllabic answers. If we probed or asked questions about college, he would switch the course of the conversation to something else. I started feeling that something was amiss. I asked my husband to visit our son and to even get him home for a weekend, if possible. I was thrilled to see Gaurav after a whole month but he had lost a lot of weight and the gleam in his eyes was gone. For two full days all he did was sleep and eat.

"He tried to tell me something... something about feeling hurt and humiliated and wanting to come back home. But I brushed it aside..."

At times I could not stop the tears from rolling down looking at the shattered soul of my son.

After Gaurav went back, my husband and I convinced each other that Gaurav was currently under a lot of pressure but he would eventually adjust to the demanding college life. **A call from Gaurav in the middle of the night shattered the illusion. It must have been 2 or 3 am when I took that call; Gaurav was sobbing and in between breaths was saying repeatedly, "please come and take me from here...please take me away...I can't take it anymore.."** It was like a bullet had just scorched through me. My 18 year old child was crying. My heart just couldn't bear the pain. I tried to calm him down but he kept repeating the same words again and again. My husband took the phone from me. He assured

Gaurav that he would be there with him the very next day and set everything right.

When my husband came back the next evening, I was both *happy and sad* to see that Gaurav was not with him. Appar-

"I loved my husband that day for the way he had pepped up Gaurav and convinced him to take ragging as a part of his medical journey."

ently Gaurav had been ragged and just could not take the humiliation anymore. I loved my husband that day for the way he had pepped up Gaurav and *convinced* him to take ragging as a part of his medical journey. He had told his own ragging stories to Gaurav. My husband explained to me that Gaurav was overreacting to something which was common and would help him become mature. I was proud of us as parents that we were strong enough to not bow down to our child's difficulties but were actually equipping him to handle problems himself.

Interaction with Gaurav became minimal. I tried to probe into his life at the college; however Gaurav never wanted to talk about it. The first time he came back home, I could see that there was a sea of change. He kept answering back to his father and every time, we questioned him about his studies or his future plans, he would usually storm out of the room. He refused to go out with us. **I did not understand how my amiable son had become this intense person with all his feelings locked up.** But my husband assured me that Gaurav was just going through a phase and will eventually come out of it.

"We were so blinded by the success of our son that we did not even realize that we were"

Today, when I look back, I realize our blunders. We were so blinded by the success of our son that we did not even realize that we were destroying the child within him.

My son has been suspended from the college for Ragging and beating up a junior. A year ago, when he had joined college he had gone through the same treatment. His seniors had humiliated him beyond the point of tolerance, beaten him up and had ensured that Gaurav was only a living shadow of his old self. When he had tried to confide in us, we did not listen to him, because we did not want anything to hamper his studies. **We never took ragging seriously and because of our insensitivity and unfeeling attitude, we let a monster grow in place of the child we had...**

As told to Pearl Malhotra

- Most accept ragging as a **part of college life**.
- Parents often overlook ragging incidents to protect the future of their child.
- Ragging is used as a **measuring rod** to test the courage of the seniors. Many seniors reluctant to rag, finally succumb to **peer pressure**.
- Ragging adversely affects the **physique and psyche** of the fresher.
- Colleges **deny** its existence in campus in order to maintain their reputation.
- A **Vicious Circle** is created wherein the students who were ragged believe that they also have a right to rag.

CONSEQUENCES OF RAGGING

How Ragging affects the Victim:

- It **demoralizes** the student who joins an institution with many hopes and expectations
- Unpleasant ragging incidents leave a **permanent scar** in the victim's mind .
- The victim **declines into a shell**, forcing himself into ignominy and alienation from the rest of the world.
- Ragging leads to **physical injury and hospitalization**.
- Extreme ragging leads to **dropout from college** thereby hampering their career prospects
- **Incidents of suicides and culpable homicide** have been consistently reported.

How Ragging Affects The Educational Institution:

- 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**.
- Ragging **hampers learning**, thus lowering the **educational standard** of the institute and entangles the management into legal battles.

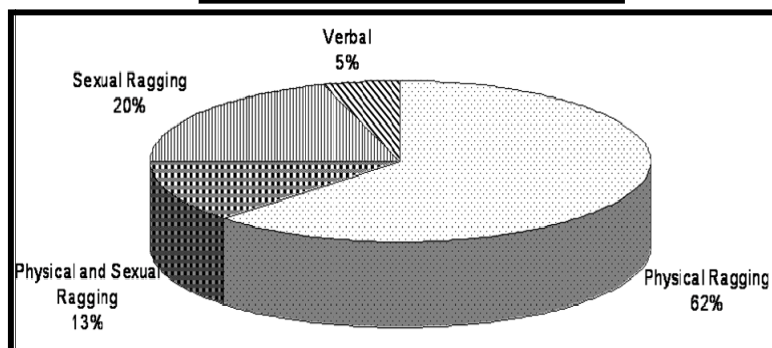
How Ragging Affects The Victim's family:

- One can imagine the **plight of a ragging victim's family**, especially his or her parents who see their child suffering in pain.
- 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**.
- **Lack of help from civil society** who do not understand or value their problem.

How Ragging Affects The Ragers:

- Those found guilty of ragging may be **suspended, blacklisted or even permanently expelled** from college. From those who are victims of ragging to those who commit or encourage it, **ragging spares none**.
- At times, **perpetrators have died** at the hands of their victims or their families.

RAGGING STATISTICS



FINDING THE SOLUTIONS!!

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO ?

- Tell your child that if he speaks against ragging, you will stand by him. He does not need to suffer in silence.
- Explain to your child, why ragging is totally unacceptable and why he should not indulge in it.
- If someone leaves an institution due to ragging, do not think he is a coward. Understand that exploitation is for REAL. Support him.

WHAT COLLEGES CAN DO ?

- Severe punishment should be given to anyone found indulging in ragging. Giving a warning to an offender is not enough.
- Promote alternate means of interaction between seniors and freshers including joint-sporting events, community work, trips, etc.
- Introduce the concept of mentoring where senior students take responsibility of juniors and become guides rather than ragers.

WHAT STUDENTS CAN DO ?

- Do not do to others the wrong done to you. Break the cycle, emerge as a 'WINNER'.
- Ragging is not a frivolous issue. Take a stand, 'CONDEMN IT' and spread awareness.
- If you face ragging, do not suffer all by yourself, inform your parents, connect with ragging related NGOs for advise and talk to friends to ease yourself.

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

Hazing is a ritual practiced in US Universities. If a first year college student wishes to join a fraternity, (college group) she/he has to undergo an initiation process to gain the membership. During initiation the student has to accomplish difficult tasks which sometimes lead to humiliation, injury or even death. However, if the student finds the task uncomfortable, she/he can opt out from the membership process and continue with his/her studies.

Ragging is a phenomenon in which freshers are forced to undergo physical, mental and sexual torture inflicted by their seniors on the pretext of making friendship and personality development. This phenomenon is seen in countries such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, etc.

Bullying is an act of teasing or humiliating someone on basis of person's characteristics such as physical features, voice, ethnicity, religion, gender, economic status, etc. Bullying can happen at home, educational institutions, workplace, etc. Recently, several countries in the west have made bullying a serious punishable offence.

RAGGING MYTHS!!

Mild ragging is okay!- Couldn't be more wrong. It all begins with what they call 'getting to know each other'. But it very soon takes an ugly turn.

Makes fresher stronger- Ragging actually weakens them and turns many of them into bitter ragers the next year. Many lose their self-confidence and become reticent.

Ragging is harmless fun- Every year ragging leads to more than 10 deaths and several thousand unaccounted cases of physical injury and mental trauma.

Ragers become buddies- Friendship doesn't need ragging for initiation. Saying that one could ever be buddies with the one that humiliated him, is ridiculous.

LAWS OF THE LAND!

FOR GUILTY STUDENTS

- Suspension from classes, hostel and other academic privileges.
- Withholding results
- Rustication from 1-4 semesters.
- Cancellation of admission
- Expulsion with subsequent bar on ever seeking admission at institution.
- Fine of upto Rs. 2.5 lakh.

FOR AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTIONS/ UNIVERSITIES, ETC

- Delisting the Institution from the UGC Act.
- Withdrawing Grants and declaring Institution ineligible for all future assistance.
- Issuing public notice declaring the Institution does not have minimum academic standards.

FOR HEAD OF INSTITUTION/ FACULTY/STAFF WHO DO NOT REPORT RAGGING OR TAKE ACTION

- Penal consequences; the regulatory authority, like the UGC, can file a case under IPC.
- Departmental Inquiries.

As directed by the Supreme Court of India

"Ragging in essence is a human rights abuse..In present times shocking incidents of ragging have come to the notice.. The student is physically tortured or psychologically terrorized..."

-Supreme Court of India (Feb11,2009)

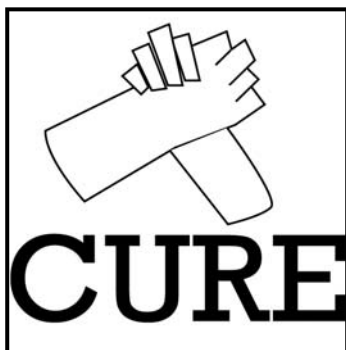
CURE

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

To establish Public Opinion against Ragging

To dispel the myths about Ragging through Research and Advocacy

To present a Platform for every Individual who wishes to share his/her opinion against Ragging



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TO UPROOT RAGGING FROM EDUCATION

- ◆ **2001-** Coalition to Uproot Ragging from Education is the first NGO to take up the cause of ragging. In the last 10 years, it has tirelessly worked towards getting eyeballs to the issue of ragging. It has pursued persistent awareness campaigns, advocacy and activism against ragging.
- ◆ **2005-** CURE published statistics on ragging for the first time, which took the Nation and the media by storm. It reported that as many as 10 deaths are caused by ragging very year, whereas more than 60% of reported cases lead to physical injury. Today, **CURE is the only organization maintaining and publishing year-on-year data on ragging.**
- ◆ **2007-** CURE acted as a consulting body to the Supreme Court appointed **Raghavan Committee** on Ragging and actively advocated for awareness and sensitization of the issue apart from strong laws.
- ◆ **2008-** To connect with youth, CURE launched '**Hard to Believe**', the first song and video on ragging. The song was featured on rediff.com and has been seen by more than 30,000 online viewers.
- ◆ **2009-** CURE produced '**Anarth:In the name of Education**', a short film based on interviews of two ragging victims. The film has been screened at National Legal Service Authority Seminars, schools and more than 45 colleges across the country.

CURE actively takes up complaints from victims currently suffering from ragging and works with the respective college to ensure a ragging-free environment. It has been featured both by National and International media including Times of India, Hindustan Times, Indian Express, CNN-IBN, Doordarshan, NDTV, etc.

Join Hands with CURE

- ⇒ Become a **NoRagging Ambassador**. Do simple things like posting ragging related messages on your Facebook wall, distributing newsletters and putting up posters. If interested, mail to ambassador@noragging.com You will receive a startup kit to spread awareness about ragging both offline and online
- ⇒ Like our facebook page www.facebook.com/noragging for regular updates about ragging.
- ⇒ **Support CURE monetarily**. Small donations help in a long way.