



# Examination of ragging under the Juvenile Law in India:

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## Abstract

Many incidents of ragging have been reported in recent times. As the Raghavan Committee has highlighted 211 incidents of Ragging reported in the media since 1998, they included stripping, sexual abuse, forcing juniors to have alcohol, forcing them to smoke, forcing to do impossible and difficult physical exercises and to part with their valuables and money. This list is only illustrative and exhaustive. These incidents resulted in many students committing suicide, receiving serious physical and psychological injuries, abandoning and discontinuing their studies, and sometimes ragging incidents leading to caste and political clashes.

This project is a humble endeavour to make available all the necessary literature on the subject of ragging and prohibition thereof. It contains an introduction, the UGC Guidelines, relevant judgments of Supreme Court of India and other High Courts apart from most of the State enactments on the subject. It also contains useful information from the Constitution of India, the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 and the Indian Penal Code, 1860 in the light of Juvenile Justice system.

## Introduction

The word 'ragging' means the acts of teasing, taunting, playing a practical joke upon someone or holding comic parades and other activities during certain period of a college term. Ragging has therefore, both positive and negative manifestations. Ragging could be considered positive if it is done within decent limits and if: it aims at raising funds for charity, it helps ease the tensions of modern students without harming anyone, it helps freshers to shake themselves out of inhibitions and inferiority complex and to smoothen their angularities, it helps dispelling the tendency among newcomers to remain isolated it is fun which is enjoyable by all, including the freshers.

But over the years the word 'ragging' ceased to denote the healthy practice it used to be and has acquired more negative connotations and notoriety. Nowadays 'ragging' may include; Display of noisy, disorderly conduct, teasing, excitement by rough or rude treatment or handling, indulging in rowdy, indiscipline activities which cause or likely

to cause annoyance, undue hardship, physical or psychological harm or raise apprehension or 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.

#### RAGGING: DEFINITION

The Karnataka Education Act, 1983<sup>1</sup> defines ragging as: “causing, inducing, compelling or forcing a student, whether by way of a practical joke or otherwise, to do any act which detracts from human dignity or violates his person or exposes him to ridicule or forbear from doing any lawful act, by intimidating, wrongfully restraining, wrongfully confining, or injuring him or by using criminal force to him or by holding out to him any threat of such intimidation, wrongful restraint, wrongful confinement, injury or the use of criminal force.”

It is generally observed that such perverse forms of ragging is more prevalent in professional colleges and institutes mainly because of large number of students staying in hostels.<sup>2</sup>

With the increasing privatization of higher education in India, academic institutions in India have been experiencing increasing ragging-related excesses. Ragging in India commonly involves serious abuses and clear violations of human rights. In present day India, 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 Raghavan Committee is of the opinion that ragging is neither a means of familiarization nor an introduction with freshers, but a form of psychopathic behavior and a reflection of deviant personalities. Further, ragging reproduces the entrenched power configurations prevalent in civil society. The Indian civil society has also started to mount resistance, only recently.<sup>3</sup>

In India, ragging has become recently more infamous for its ubiquitous presence in the educational institutions. According to the observations by the Dr. Raghavan Committee, which has been constituted by the Union Human Resource Development ministry on the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the medical colleges are the worst affected in India. It appears that ragging is the result of lacking of moral fiber among the students. A sense of discipline can be inculcated among the members of student community if they are made to understand the true meaning of education which takes a man from darkness to enlightenment. Unfortunately, in this mechanical age, the students are rarely exposed to the writings of Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi apart from the various religious scriptures. A humble attempt to understand the concept of fraternity and equality may also make them shun evil activities like ragging. The Constitution of India which is the fundamental law of the land explains the importance

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<sup>1</sup> (Karnataka Act No. 1 of 1995) Section 2(29).

<sup>2</sup> See Report of the Committee to curb the Menace of Ragging in Universities/Educational Institutions appointed by UGC under the Chairmanship of Prof K P.S.Unny in 1999-available at [www.ugc.ac.in](http://www.ugc.ac.in).

<sup>3</sup> See Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia - Retrieved from "[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ragging\\_in\\_India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ragging_in_India)".

of equality of status and opportunity, fraternity among all the citizens and dignity of the individuals.<sup>4</sup>

The Constitution also contains number of fundamental duties imposed on the citizens<sup>5</sup>. For the sake of ready reference all the 11 fundamental duties are reproduced hereunder:

Article 51A. Fundamental Duties:- It shall be the duty of every citizen of India,

- (a) to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;
- (b) to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;
- (c) to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
- (d) to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
- (e) to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;
- (f) to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;
- (g) to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures;
- (h) to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;
- (i) to safeguard public property and to abjure violence;
- (j) to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity, so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavor and achievement; and
- (k) who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be ward between the age of six and fourteen years.<sup>6</sup>

It is suggested that all the students at every level of education are made to understand the fundamental duties imposed on them and the philosophy underlying them so that the evil of ragging could be eradicated from all educational institutions.

### Forms of Ragging

Ragging is found to take the following forms the list of which. is only indicative and not exhaustive. Orders given by seniors to juniors to address seniors as 'Sir', 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 'shock the freshers out of their innocence; to force to drink alcohol, scalding tea, etc., to force to do acts with

<sup>4</sup> See the Preamble to the Indian Constitution, 1950.

<sup>5</sup> See Article 51A of the Constitution of India.

<sup>6</sup> Ins. by the Constitution (Eighty-sixty Amendment) Act, 2002, s. 4.

sexual overtones, including homosexual acts; to force to do acts which can lead to physical injury/mental torture or death, to strip, kiss, etc.; and to do other obscenities. It can be seen from the above that most of them, except the first few, constitute perverse forms of ragging.

### Causes for Ragging

The main causes for indulging in ragging are: Eagerness of seniors to show off their power, authority, superiority. It may be the result of an attitude of backlash viz., a "do-unto-others what others did to you" (similar to mother-in-law Vs daughter-in-law syndrome); yet another reason could be the importance the seniors get in the initial stages of admission by helping and guiding the freshers for various things in the absence of or ineffectiveness of institutional mechanism to help the freshers at that point, resulting in the freshers getting indebted to seniors and thereby feeling compelled to do their biddings.

In recent years it is found that the media more particularly the electronic media and cinema also are playing an important role in certain students taking up the practice of ragging. There may be sociological, political, psychological, economic and even regional factors also that may contribute to ragging.

The Unny Committee Report recommended for a three-pronged approach to tackle the problem of ragging and to curb the menace of ragging in educational institutions, namely; **Prohibition – Prevention - Punishment System (PPS SYSTEM)**; that is, prohibition by Law, prevention by following a set of guidelines and punishment in case ragging takes place in spite of prohibition and prevention. The Committee was of the view that punishment for the offenders should be balanced by some incentives for non-offenders and those who help check the menace of ragging.

### Legal Position in India

In 1997, the state of Tamil Nadu first passed the law related to ragging subsequently, a major boost to anti-ragging efforts was given by a landmark judgment 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<sup>7</sup>, 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's interim order (based on the recommendations) dated May 16, 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 and not by the academic institutions own ad-hoc bodies. If an accused person is found to be a juvenile (under 18 year) he is tried by Juvenile Justice Board.

<sup>7</sup> Raghavan Committee Recommendation Report" (PDF). Human Resource Development Ministry, Government of India. [http://education.nic.in/HigherEdu/Ragging\\_Report.pdf](http://education.nic.in/HigherEdu/Ragging_Report.pdf).

The Supreme Court has taken a strong stand to prevent ragging. In 2006, the court directed the H.R.D. Ministry of the Government of India to form a panel which will suggest guidelines to control ragging. The panel, headed by the former director of C.B.L. Dr. R.K. Raghavan, met victims, guardians and others across the country. The Raghavan committee has placed its recommendation before the Supreme Court, which has given its order on the issue.

The Raghavan Committee report submitted in 2007 made a case for preventing ragging which was being perceived as a "social menace." It recommended certain measures, including stricter punishment for the offenders, and a written undertaking from students entering the hostel, countersigned by their parents that they would not indulge in ragging. 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."

The Prohibition of Ragging Act is state law and each state has its own law but mostly similar. 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 indiscipline 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."

The Kerala Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1998 defines ragging as "Teasing, abusing, playing practical jokes or causing hurt or asking a student to do an act which he is unwilling to do." The State laws provide for setting up of Disciplinary Committees for taking immediate and effective steps against ragging. They declare ragging to be a cognizable offence and prescribe punishment for the same. For instance, The Maharashtra Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1999 says: "Offenders of Ragging will be liable to a fine of Rs. 5000 or two years of rigorous imprisonment or both. Offenders may also be expelled from their institutions without any scope for re-admittance."

### **Ragging a Violation of Fundamental Rights**

The Indian Constitution of 1950 guarantees number of fundamental rights to citizens and others. Most important of them are the Right to Equality, Right to Freedoms including the Right to Life and Personal Liberty, and the Right against Exploitation. In so far as ragging is concerned all the aforementioned fundamental rights would be violated by any act of ragging. It may be noted that the right to equality contains within its ambit prohibition of discrimination on the ground of religion, race, caste sex, or place of birth. Under Article 15 (2) of the Constitution, the State is under an obligation to ensure that no citizen is discriminated against, on the grounds aforementioned, in any public place including educational institutions. Therefore any practice of ragging will be squarely covered within the meaning of violation of fundamental rights. Similarly Article 19 of the Constitution guarantees to all the citizens, certain freedoms including the freedom of speech and expression, freedom of assembly, freedom of association and freedom of movement. Any incidence of ragging would be clearly violative of the freedoms guaranteed under the

Constitution, and the students are likely to be the worst victims thereof.

But one fundamental right which is violated more often by: ragging of students is their right to life and personal liberty, guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. This right implicitly includes the right to live with basic human dignity. In Maneka Gandhi's case,<sup>8</sup> the Supreme Court gave a new dimension to Article 21. It was held that the right to 'live' is not merely confined to physical existence but it includes within its ambit the right to live with human dignity. Elaborating the same view the Court in Francis Coralie vs. Union Territory of Delhi,<sup>9</sup> observed that the right to live is not restricted to mere animal existence. It means something more than just physical survival. The 'Right to life' is not confined to the protection of any faculty or limb through which life is enjoyed or the soul communicates with the outside world but it also includes "the right to live with human dignity", and all that goes along with it, namely, the bare necessities of life such as, adequate nutrition, clothing and shelter and facilities for reading, writing and expressing ourselves in diverse forms, freely moving about and mixing and commingling with fellow human beings.

Following the judgments in Maneka Gandhi and Francis Coralie cases, the Supreme Court in People Union for Democratic Rights vs. Union of India,<sup>10</sup> has held that non-payment of minimum wages to the workers employed in various Asiad Projects in Delhi was a denial to them of their right to live with basic human dignity and violative of Article 21 of the Constitution, Bhagwati, J. speaking for the majority held that the rights and benefits conferred on the workmen employed by a contractor under various labour laws are clearly intended to ensure basic human dignity to workmen and if the workmen are deprived of these rights and benefits, that would clearly be a violation of Article 21". It was further held that the non-implementation by the private contractors and non-enforcement by the State authorities of the provisions any of of various labour laws violated the fundamental right of workers to live with human dignity". This decision has heralded a new legal revolution, it has clothed million of workers in factories, fields, mines and project sites with human dignity. They had fundamental right to maximum wages, drinking water, shelter, creches, medical aid and safety in the respective occupations covered by the various welfare legislations.

In Chandra Raja Kumari vs. Police Commissioner Hyderabad,<sup>11</sup> it has been held that the right to live includes right to live with human dignity or decency and, therefore holding of beauty contest is repugnant to dignity or decency of women and offends Article 21 of the Constitution. The Government is empowered to prohibit the contest as objectionable performance under Section 3 of the Andhra Pradesh Objectionable Performances Prohibition Act, 1956, if it is grossly indecent, scurrilous or obscene or intended for blackmailing. In State of Maharashtra vs. Chandrabhan,<sup>12</sup> the Court. struck down a provision of Bombay Civil Service Rules, 1959, which provided for payment of only a nominal subsistence allowance of Re. 1 per month to a suspended Government servant upon his conviction during the pendency of his appeal as unconstitutional on the ground that it was violative of Article 21 of

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<sup>8</sup> AIR 1978 SC 597.

<sup>9</sup> AIR 1981 SC 746.

<sup>10</sup> AIR 1982 SC 1473.

<sup>11</sup> AIR 1998 A.P. 302.

<sup>12</sup> (1983) 3 SCC 387.

the Constitution.

The aforementioned discussion clearly shows that ragging in any form violates the fundamental rights of citizens including the students. Any student who is victimised or subjected to ragging can approach either the Supreme Court under Article 32 of the Constitution or the High Courts under Article 226 of the Constitution seeking appropriate directions from the Court. The number of judgments delivered by the Supreme Court and various High Courts which are extracted in this book clearly demonstrate that ragging violates the fundamental rights of citizens and when such a practice takes place the courts cannot remain silent spectators. A look at the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in February and May 2009 clearly reflects the seriousness with which the Constitutional Courts in India have been treating ragging as a violation of not only fundamental rights but also the human rights.

### **Supreme Court Guidelines on Ragging**

With ragging becoming a national issue affecting thousands of students across India, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India too could not remain silent and has seriously condemned the issue. So far there have been two landmark judgments prohibiting ragging. These are:

1. Ragging of Freshers in Thiruvananthapuram Government Engineering College vs. State of Kerala
2. Vishwa Jagriti Mission through President vs. Central Government through Cabinet Secretary

The judgment in the case of Vishwa Jagriti Mission is particularly significant as the Hon'ble Supreme Court, while exercising its jurisdiction under Articles 32 and 142 of the Constitution of India, has laid down broad guidelines for colleges and educational institutes to prevent ragging. These guidelines are briefly summarized as under:

1. Anti Ragging Movements To Be Initiated By All Colleges And Educational Institutes:

Anti-ragging movements should be initiated by the institutions right from the time of advertisement for admissions. The prospectus, the forms for admission and/or any other literature issued to aspirants for admission must clearly mention that ragging is banned in the institution and any one indulging in ragging is likely to be punished appropriately with punishment which may include expulsion or suspension from the institution or class for a limited period or fine with a public apology. The punishment may also take the shape of: (i) withholding scholarships or other benefits (ii) debarring from representation in events (iii) withholding results (iv) suspension or expulsion from hostel or mess, and the like. If there be any legislation governing ragging or any provisions in the Statutes/Ordinances they should be brought to the notice of the students/parents seeking admissions.

2. Undertakings To Be Taken Both From The Freshmen And Their Parents/ Guardians:

The application for admission/ enrolment shall have a printed undertaking to be filled up and signed by the applicant to the effect that he/she is aware of the institution's approach towards ragging and the punishment to which he or she shall be liable if found guilty of ragging. A similar undertaking shall be obtained from the parent/ guardian of the applicant.

3. Undertaking To Be Taken From Seniors Students And Their Parents/Guardians Too:

The institutions which are introducing such a system for the first time shall ensure undertakings being obtained from the students and their parents/guardians already studying in the institutions before the commencement of the next educational year/session.

#### 4. Notices To Be Issued Indicating Where To Approach For Redressal In Case Of Ragging:

A printed leaflet detailing when and to whom one has to turn for information, help and guidance for various purposes, keeping in view the needs of new entrants in the institution, along with the addresses and telephone numbers of such persons, should be given to freshers at the time of admissions so that the freshers need not look up to the seniors for help in such matters and feel indebted to or obliged by them.

#### 5. Management, Principals And The Teaching Staff To Have Personal Interaction With The Freshmen:

The Management, the Principal, the Teaching Staff should interact with the freshmen and take them in confidence by apprising them of their right as well as obligation to fight against ragging and to generate confidence in their mind that any instance of ragging and to generate confidence in their mind that any instance of ragging to which they are subjected.

The Supreme Court issued stricter guidelines to prevent ragging in colleges and other educational institutions. As per the new directive issued by the Apex Court, in May 2009, Head of the institution and the Local Police Chief will be held responsible if any ragging case is reported in their jurisdiction. A national level committee will be formed to suggest remedial measures in the school curriculum. Most of the recommendations made by the Supreme Court committee on Ragging headed by former C.B.I. director R.K. Raghavan, were accepted by the the Supreme Court. A Bench comprising of Justice Arijit Pasayat and Justice A.K. Ganguly issued the directives. The Supreme Court stepped in to curb the ragging following the death of 19 year-old medical student Aman Kachroo at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Medical College in Himachal Pradesh.

### **Response of UGC to the Menace of Ragging**

Being the premier institution dealing with the issue of higher and professional education in India, the University Grants Commission has been playing a proactive role in directing the universities and other educational institutions in curbing this evil practice.

- i. Prof. Unny Committee: It can be seen that the UGC constituted a committee in 1999 under the chairmanship of Prof. K.P.S.Unny which had made some important recommendations. The University Grants Commission was made one of the respondents in a Public Interest Litigation case filed in the Supreme Court of India by the Vishwa Jagriti Mission highlighting the adverse impact of ragging of freshers in educational institutions all over the country. During the hearing of the case held on 16th July 1999, the learned Judges had indicated that it would be appropriate if the UGC takes a more pro-active view in the matter and frame guidelines with regard to combating the menace of ragging in the universities and other educational institutions. Accordingly, the LCC constituted the



Committee to frame the guidelines in the matter. This committee in its report explained the concept of Ragging, its various forms and causes for Ragging. The committee also traced the Vulnerable locations for ragging. Causes for the increase in the incidence of ragging and ineffectiveness of measures against it, Existing Governmental/institutional efforts in curbing ragging. The Unny Committee in its recommendations suggested a three-pronged system to curb the menace of ragging in educational institutions, namely:

**Prohibition- Prevention Punishment System (PPSSYSTEM);** that is, prohibition by Law, prevention by following a set of guidelines and punishment in case ragging takes place in spite of prohibition and prevention. The Committee was of the view that punishment for the offenders should be balanced by some incentives for non-offenders and those who help check the menace of ragging.<sup>13</sup>

As regards the Prohibition, the Committee recommended to enact a law (where-ever no such law exists) prohibiting ragging in the educational institutions, which, inter alia, should also contain provisions;

- to treat ragging as a cognizable offence;
- since ragging in its perverse forms have the effect of dehumanization of the individual affecting his/her self esteem, ragging should be treated more or less at par with rape and other atrocities against women, ill-treating persons belonging to reserved categories, etc. -Fresh students, like other weaker sections of the society, need and deserve protection, to identify the perverse forms of ragging under the law;
- to prescribe suitable punishments keeping in mind the gravity of the offence committed, providing for a maximum punishment of rigorous imprisonment up to three years, or a fine up to Rs. 25000/-, or both.;
- the educational institutions may prescribe other punishments such as suspension from classes, from the hostel, rustication, etc.; and
- to ensure that the Films Censor Boards and other agencies do not allow films to be screened with scenes which make heroes out of youngsters who indulge in ragging.

The Committee also suggested various punishments for Ragging. The following could be the possible punishments for those who are found guilty of participation in or abetment of ragging. The quantum of punishment shall, naturally, depend upon the nature and gravity of the offence as established by the Disciplinary Committee or the court of law.

<sup>13</sup> See D.O. Letter No F.8-1/96(CPP-11) from the Secretary to UGC, New Delhi dated January 13, 2000. Full Report of the Committee can be accessed at [www.ugc.ac.in](http://www.ugc.ac.in).

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. Expulsion from the hostel.
8. Rustication from the institution for periods.
9. Rustication from the institution for varying periods Expulsion from the institution and consequent debarring from admission to any other institution.
10. Fine up to Rs 25,000/-.
11. Rigorous imprisonment up to three years. While the first 10 types of punishment can be awarded by the appropriate authority of the institution itself, the last punishment can be awarded only by a court of law.

ii. Dr. Raghavan Committee: The Indian Supreme Court has taken a strong stand to prevent ragging. In 2006, the court directed the H.R.D. Ministry of the Government 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 Supreme Court, which has given its order on the issue. The Raghavan Committee report submitted in 2007 made a case for preventing ragging which was being perceived as a "social menace." It recommended certain measures, including stricter punishment for the offenders, and a written undertaking from students entering the hostel, countersigned by their parents that they would not indulge in ragging.

iii. UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace Of Ragging In Higher Educational Institutions, 2009: These regulations were passed by the University Grants Commission in the year 2009 to curb the menace of ragging in the Universities in India. Regulation 6 talks about the measures for prevention of ragging at the institution level. It lays down the steps an institution has to follow during the admission and registration process. A student during the admission process has to file an affidavit along with his parents/guardian's signature, stating that he will not be ragging other students directly or indirectly. Also, the institution has to publish the names and contact numbers of Anti-ragging committee of the university.

Every fresh student admitted to the institution shall be given a printed leaflet detailing to whom he/she has to turn to for help and guidance for various purposes including addresses and telephone numbers, so as to enable the student to contact the concerned person at any time.

Regulation 6.3 says that every institution shall constitute a committee to be known as the 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 fresher's category as well as senior students, non-teaching staff; and shall have a diverse mix of membership in terms of levels as well as gender. It shall be the duty of the Anti-Ragging Committee to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Regulations as well as the provisions of any law for the time being in force concerning ragging ; and also to monitor and oversee the performance of the Anti-Ragging Squad. It shall be the duty of the Anti-Ragging Squad to make surprise raids on hostels, and other places vulnerable to incidents of, and having the potential of, ragging.

Regulation 7 lays down that on receipt of any information concerning any reported incident of ragging, the Head of institution shall immediately determine if a case under the penal laws is made out and if so, either on his own or through a member of the Anti-Ragging Committee, proceed to file a First Information Report ( FIR), within twenty four hours of receipt of such information.

Regulation 9 lays down that The Anti-Ragging Committee of the institution shall take an appropriate decision, in regard to punishment or otherwise, depending on the facts of each incident of ragging and nature and gravity of the incident of ragging established in the recommendations of the Anti-Ragging Squad.

### **Conclusion and Other laws:**

Apart from the IPC and the UGC Regulations, there are other government bodies who have their own laws on ragging in their respective acts. For example the All India Council For Technical Education [AICTE] and the Medical Council of India have made their own regulations under their respective acts.

The AICTE has created "All India Council for Technical Education (Prevention and Prohibition of Ragging in Technical Institutions, Universities including Deemed to be Universities imparting technical education) Regulations 2009" under Section 23 and Section 10 of the AICTE Act, 1987.

Similarly, the Medical Council of India has made "Medical Council of India (Prevention and Prohibition of Ragging in Medical Colleges/Institutions) Regulations, 2009" under Section 33 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.