

An Appeal to Senior Students

Dear Students,

I address you through this note to inform that **Ragging is not only a social evil, but also, is an unlawful criminal activity. Please refrain from indulging in any activity which may be construed as 'Ragging' in the eyes of law.**

Some Concerns to Remember about Ragging

1	Ragging is an act of aggression committed by an individual or a group of individuals over another individual or a group of individuals where the First group, by virtue of their being senior to the second group, somehow assumes to have the authority and audacity to commit the act and the second group, by virtue of their being new to the institution fall victims.
2	Any premier institution like the Faculty of Architecture, UPTU-Lucknow (FoA-UPTU) provides many opportunities for a new comer to excel, in both academics and extra-curricular activities. Forcing a pre-determined set of ideas on to a fresher diminishes his/her chances of self-discovery and confidence.
3	Talent in human beings is varied and multi-faceted. It is regressive to make some people feel that they are talent-less or lack social skills.
4	Ragging is not a harmless fun. In any educational institution, the students come from diverse social and cultural background, and what may be harmless fun for some may turn out to be serious indignity for some others. There are always a few cases where some freshers find ragging (or so called interaction) intolerable and in such eventuality they suffer the loss of self esteem and depression. Nation-wide there have more than 45 ragging deaths and suicides since 1998. This year, in 5 to 6 lives are reported media to have been to be lost just one/two months so far. It is often the case that seniors, being young students themselves, do not realize where to draw the line and when to back off. The risk is simply not worth it.
5	Ragging does not increase 'Smartness' or make a fresher 'Bold' . Quite to the contrary, it forces an individual to accept subjugation and conform- perhaps even rationalize it later (<i>with the drinks and other allurements</i>) at the end of the interaction period. This loss of individuality suppresses talent and reduces self-worth of the newcomers. In turn, the forced homogeneity precludes free flow of new ideas, creativity and the spirit of enquiry. Also, the attempt of the seniors to break the self esteem of a newcomer and revel in their shame and fear which causes the feelings of bitterness and revengefulness, which is often taken out on juniors- the next year or, in some cases due to the involvement with external elements the conflict with seniors, the peace and tran quillity of the campus is destroyed.
6	It is more shameful that due to the incessant reports of such incidences, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India had to intervene and pass strict orders to stop ragging. Now, it is mandatory that the Institute has to launch a FIR, if any occurrence of 'Ragging' comes in light. Besides that the academic /administrative punishment- may also take the shape of: (i) Monetary fines and Withholding of Freeship, Scholarships or other benefits like recommendation for further studies or Bank loans etc. ii) Debarring from representation in sports, cultural or academic competitive events. iii) Withholding results, character certificates and embossing the record of involvement in 'Ragging' in the final Mark-sheets and Degree certificates. (iv) Suspension of academic and other institutional facilities or expulsion from hostel or mess and or the rustication from Institute/University.
7	Forcing freshers to sing, dance or perform in any way under the guise of 'talent search' or 'interaction' is neither desirable nor expected. This also constitutes 'Ragging' as defined by Hon'ble Supreme Court.
8	It is a matter of shame that a 'Google search' on 'Ragging' returns most of the top few items related to ragging in India. Ragging , in most other countries, has become an activity of past, and this has in no way reduced the sense of belonging institutions.

It is neither possible nor desirable that a high-handed proctorial discipline and Punishments be used to stop ragging. If this social evil has to be eradicated it must happen through the understanding and efforts of the Student Community. Not only should they not Rag others but should actually prevent ragging from happening. We make an earnest request to all students to play an active role in stopping ragging.

**It will help us to curb aggressive interaction / RAGGING more effectively,
if you Co-operate and report such misadventure.
It will bring Tranquillity and Pride to your campus life,
and also save you feeling of Guilt and Botheration of facing Criminal Proceedings.**

Director