

# The Effects of Ragging

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**Synopsis:** – Ragging is the action of scolding, teasing, criticizing or nagging a person. It is generally committed by the senior students. Ragging often takes place in hostels. There are a few senior students in every hostel the new students were subjected to simple teasing and mock interviews. Today, it has degenerated into torture of the innocent. The new students who resist and complain to authorities are tortured the most. Ragging has some positive effects, but it should be discouraged. Effective steps need to be taken to deal with this problem.

The accurate meaning of the word 'ragging' is 'to tease', but even the dictionary says it is an archaic meaning. The main objective of ragging means of an interaction they get close and know one another. But in practice, it is nothing but a kind of torture. It is a form of an abuse on the newcomers of educational institutions in India.

Ragging is any disorderly conduct whether spoken or written or by an act which causes annoyance, hardship or psychological harm to a student. It is generally committed by senior students upon the first-year students.

Ragging generally takes place in colleges and hostels. There are many tales of torture and humiliation that are associated with ragging. The new students feel that they are in for a series of practical jokes at the hands of the senior students. Once they fall into the clutches of the latter, they do not find a way to escape. There are a few senior students in every hostel who do not take enough interest in studies. They indulge in raging, bullying, etc. They create an image of themselves as rowdies. No one dares to interfere with their ways.

Ragging originated in the west. But today, it has reached the Indian society too. Young students enrolled in India's 504 universities are plagued by ragging. At the start of every academic session, the media brings the news of suicides by new entrants, who no longer can bear the disgrace, ignominy and dishonor inflicted on them by their seniors. Ragging has caused intense fear and shattered the trust and ability of the new students to make sound judgment about the people around them.

Some people feel that it is a socio-cultural problem. The truth is that in some cases, ragging has occasionally ended in fighting, serious injuries, and even deaths, leading to the ruin of some brilliant carriers.

Senior students tease the new students about their looks and manners. The tall and the short, the fat and the lean, all become easy targets. Students wearing

glasses, have their glasses snatched away and are made to read without them. A few of them are made to bow before the senior students and are forced to greet them with folded hands. Sometimes the eatables brought by the new students are eaten by the seniors in the seniors' presence. Ragging may be in the form of a mock interview of the new entrants. The senior students would take the position of interviews, while the new students become the interviewees. Sometimes they are asked indecent questions and are made to make obscene gestures.

A new student who resists becomes a target of harassment. He may be falsely accused of stealing a thing or things from a senior. He would be put on a mock trial. During the trial, he might be forced to admit his guilt. If he does not admit his guilt, he is pressurized by physical threats and humiliation.

In the beginning, ragging was an amusing practice. It has degenerated into an evil. It has become a synonym for torture'. The Supreme Court of India has written or by an act which adversely affects the physique or physique or psyche of a fresher or a junior student is an act of ragging. But if through ragging the decency and morals are violated or one's body gets injured or if any wrongful restraint or criminal intimidation is involved in it, then ragging becomes a legal offence. Ragging in India commonly involves serious abuses and clear violations of human rights. The Supreme Court has taken a strong stand to curb ragging. Ragging has been declared as a criminal offence.

India's first and only registered anti ragging NGO, Society against Violence in Education SAVE has claimed that ragging is widely and dangerously prevalent in engineering and other academic institutions, mainly in the hostels.

For such cases, there are certain punishments in UGC's anti ragging guidelines which include a fine up to rupees twenty-five thousand, cancellation of admission, withholding of scholarship debarring from appearing for examinations, suspension or expulsion from hostel and rustication from institution for period of one or four semesters. Even the institutions where ragging is prevalent could be punished. By withdrawing of affiliation or other privileges and daring any degree and withholding grants.

The real picture was revealed by reporting, CURE [Coalition of uprooting ragging from education]. Between July 2003 and June 2008, there were cases of deaths, 10 attempted suicides and 14 left college's only 54 percent cases sought police intervention. The most affected areas are west Bengal. Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. The Supreme Court accepted its report and directed educational institutions at very minimum to expel the guilty. It also allowed institutions to resist police cases against accused.

Most authorities have tackled the problem with iron hands. More effective steps need taken to deal with the evil. The institutes should arrange counseling session for fresher's so that they can speak their mind. Anti-ragging cells should also be established. A fresher party should be organized by the institute itself within two weeks of the start of the academic session so that the junior and senior students can easily interact with one another.