REPORT ON

Status of Anti-Ragging Measures & Activities in colleges surrounding Sonitpur town

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District Legal Services Authority
Sonitpur, Assam

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Background

College and university life is very important in every body's life because it not only determines the future of a person but also is a time when most students understand the realities of life. But it has been observed that students do not enjoy their campus life till the end of freshmen year. This is because of ragging. 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 undisciplined 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 above meaning was given by the Supreme Court of India highlighting the seriousness of the issue. Ragging which starts as fun activity for one group of students may have a far-reaching impact on the other group of students, their family and on the institution itself. It may also result in death of some extreme cases. Understanding the above circumstances, The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) of Sonitpur have always been working tirelessly to prevent this menace so that students enters the institutions/Colleges without any hesitation and fear of ragging. DLSA Sonitpur has been working various activities to ensure that the mandate of Ani ragging Act is adhered to by all colleges in the district. ASLSA has included Anti-ragging activities in its calendar of activities for the month of August. Therefore, DLSA Sonitpur in compliance thereof had undertaken various anti-ragging programmes in the district.

Programmes of DLSA Sonitpur

Guided by Smt. Mridu Chanda Bordoloi (AJS) Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, a three-member team which was formed to take a survey by educational institutes, in and around Sonitpur, viz Colleges/Universities to study the problem of ragging and to ascertain whether the dictum of the anti-ragging act was followed or not. The team visited 9 nos. of higher educational institutes which were selected randomly. These educational institutes were already oriented by DLSA about the essential requirements for making the campus ragging free in the previous years. During the visit, the team interacted with the principals/ Deans of the colleges and universities. Also, the team installed various anti-ragging banners inside and outside the college campuses. The team had urged the college authorities to form an Anti-Ragging Squad to consisting of senior professors, Hostel Wardens, and Students. The team has also prepared a questionnaire for colleges and universities to acquire details of Anti-ragging measures and activities undertaken in the colleges and universities visited. Details of the college and universities which were surveyed are given below...

Sl. No.	Name of the College/ University	Address & Contact Details	Name of the Principal / Vice Chancellor / Contact person
1	Tezpur University	Napaam, Tezpur, Assam 784028 Ph: 03712 267 008	Professor Vinod Kumar Jain ,VC Shri.Dhanapati Deka, Dean Dept of Student welfare
2	Darrang College	Mahabhairab Paruwa Road, Mahabhairab, Tezpur, Assam 784001 Phone 03712 225 410	Dr. Joy Shankar Hazarika Principal

3	Tezpur College	Near Agnigarh, District- Sonitpur Pin- 784001 Phone- 03712-220535 Email:tezpurcollege.5aug1965@gmail.com	Dr. Jyoti Kamal Hazarika Principal
4	Assam Valley Academy	N.T Road, Ketekibari, Tezpur, Sonitpur (Assam),PIN: 784001 Ph: +91-9854018544, +91-8811803643 Email: AVBSTEZ@gmail.com	Sri. Vijoy Saikia Principal
5	LGB Girls College	Mission Chariali,Tezpur, P. O. KETEKIBARI, SONITPUR(ASSAM) Ph. No.- 03712- 255836 Mobile- 98647-37509 Email: principallgbgc@gmail.com	Dr. Tapan Kr Kalita Principal
6	Tezpur Law College	Dhanua Nagar Rd, Mahabhairab, Tezpur, Assam 784001 Ph 03712 225912 Email: info@tezpurlawcollege.in	Dr. Bhuban Ch Borah Principal
7	Tezpur Science Academy	Nikamul Satra Road, Nikamul Chariali, Tezpur, Assam 784154 Ph: 088767 05152	Smt. Suranjana Sharma Principal
8	Rangapara College	Rangapara College P.O. Rangapara, Dist. Sonitpur(Assam) Pin 784505	Dr. Ranjan Kalita Principal
9	Lokanayak Omeo Kumar Das College	P.O Dhekiajuli District: Sonitpur PIN: 784110 Ph: 91 0371224423 Email: lokdcollege.444@rediffmail.com	Dr. Sukdev Adhikari Principal

Status of Anti Ragging Measures in Colleges

Because of the result of the earlier interventions of DLSA, Sonitpur, it is found most of the colleges already have Anti-ragging squad or similar kind of committees for prevention of ragging inside or outside college campuses. In the last few years, no cases have been registered against ragging nor did any activities happened in connection with ragging in the district. It is found that only LGB Girls College has no active Anti Ragging Squad as of now. However, the college authority has informed that no such cases related to ragging has been registered till date. It was also seen that students are also well aware of ragging menaces and they hesitate to practice such activities in the future too.

Observations of the visiting team from DLSA, Sonitpur

During the visit following points were witnessed:

- Anti-ragging display boards and banners containing the evils of ragging and the administrative actions in the event of ragging are displayed around the campuses of most the institutes to enable the student community to actively engage themselves in proactive learning.
- All colleges/Universities have a regular practice of counseling the new students on ill effects of ragging and also informs them about the strict policies against ragging during the time of enrollment of the students.
- The Tezpur University has done tremendous work for prevention of ragging. The Student Welfare Department of Tezpur Universities have 3 nos. of committees, which are acting as an anti-ragging squad in various levels.
- The Tezpur University has developed some IEC materials to promote Anti Ragging activities, like leaflets, Anti Ragging Booklet, etc.
- Colleges are obtaining an undertaking from the students as well as from the parents that the students will not indulge in any form of ragging.
- In some colleges Hostel wardens are taking effective steps to curb the ragging activities in hostel campuses and their faculty members are visiting hostel on turn basis to oversee the effective prevention of ragging.

Affidavits are taken at the time of admission.

Recommendation:

Following are some recommendations given by the visiting DLSA team to the institutes..

- Anti-Ragging squad should be formed consisting of Board members, Principal, Sr. Faculty members, Hostel Warden and Students.
- Prevention of ragging on commercially managed places-private hostels where students seek accommodation should also be monitored.
- A committee or cell, especially for female students, should be formed. Comprising of lady staff members, which takes care of women's issues. The cell should conduct regular meetings with professional counsellors.
- This cell will look after the issues related safety of the girl students and encourage the students to lodge complaints fearlessly.
- It is recommended that the helpline numbers of the police station and DLSA, Sonitpur be displayed in all conspicuous places of the colleges.
- Street plays, Seminars or other informative programmes can be arranged during college week, fresher's week, etc., to increase awareness on Anti-ragging measures.
- A **Best Model is suggested** for Colleges and Universities by the DLSA, Sonitpur to prevent ragging at the institutions.

There should be three Important Bodies:

- **Disciplinary Committee:**

The College or University should have a vigilant Disciplinary Committee for student affairs, which is responsible for taking disciplinary action against perpetrators of ragging, and providing counseling and comfort to the victim. The College or University should follow a policy of zero tolerance towards violence and ragging, which are right on top of the list of extremely serious misbehaviors identified by the College or University

- **Anti-Ragging Squad:**

The College or University should form a Anti Ragging Squad with a minimum 7 members in it. This 7 member body should consists of representatives from the Faculty, Administrative Staff, Security Staff, and Matrons, with a mix of genders.

The main objectives of the Anti-Ragging Squad are:

- To oversee and pre-empt any possibility of ragging
- To conduct surprise visits and raids in the dormitories and other likely areas where ragging may happen..
- To inspect any area according to the discretion of the members.
- To take steps in accordance with the school rules wherever required and to report the same to the Disciplinary Committee or Anti-Ragging Committee without delay.

- **Anti-Ragging Committee:**

This body consists of members who are:

Prominent citizens of the locality from various walks of life, parents' representative, alumni representative, representatives of school employees of various categories, and representatives of students from diverse age groups.

This committee is headed by the Principal/ Dean. The contact information of the members is available on the college website. The main objectives of this committee are:

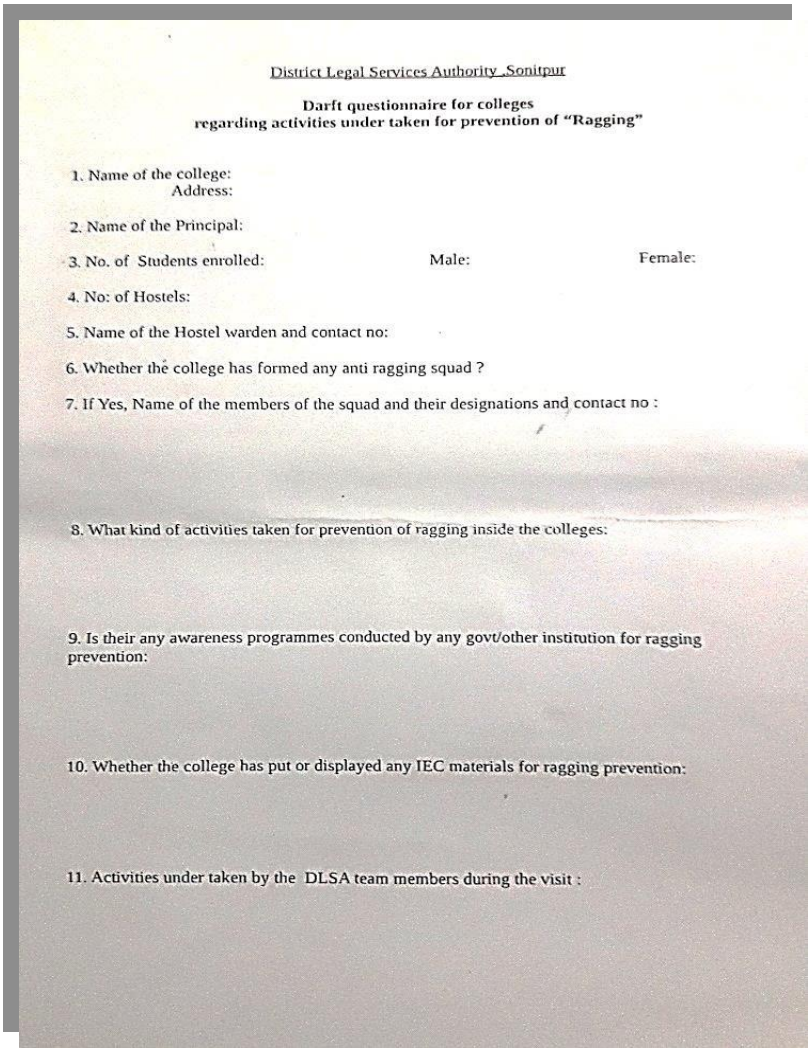
a. To advise the college on systems to be followed, and activities to be followed, to prevent ragging.

b. To oversee all anti-ragging efforts and their effectiveness.

c. To help the college take action if any complaint regarding ragging is received.

Annexures

Questionnaire Used for data collection

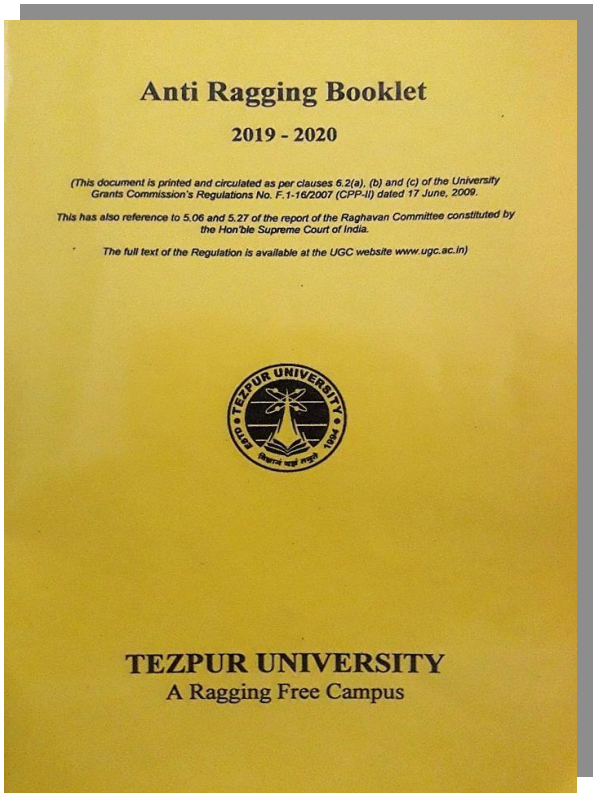


District Legal Services Authority ,Sonitpur

Darft questionnaire for colleges regarding activities under taken for prevention of "Ragging"

1. Name of the college:
   Address:
2. Name of the Principal:
3. No. of Students enrolled: Male: Female:
4. No: of Hostels:
5. Name of the Hostel warden and contact no:
6. Whether the college has formed any anti ragging squad ?
7. If Yes, Name of the members of the squad and their designations and contact no :
8. What kind of activities taken for prevention of ragging inside the colleges:
9. Is their any awareness programmes conducted by any govt/other institution for ragging prevention:
10. Whether the college has put or displayed any IEC materials for ragging prevention:
11. Activities under taken by the DLSA team members during the visit :

Anti- Ragging booklet developed by TEZPUR University



Anti Ragging Booklet

2019 - 2020

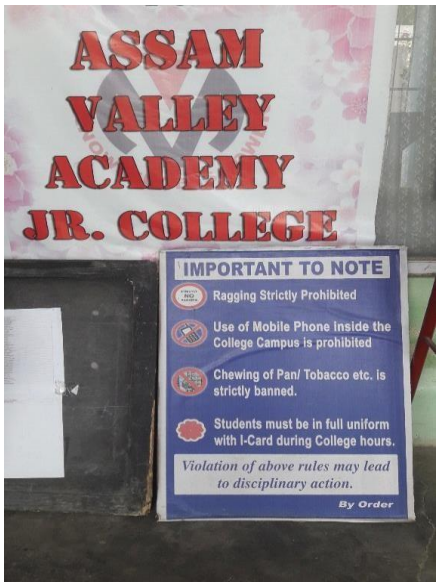
(This document is printed and circulated as per clauses 6.2(a), (b) and (c) of the University Grants Commission's Regulations No. F.1-16/2007 (CPP-II) dated 17 June, 2009.

This has also reference to 5.06 and 5.27 of the report of the Raghavan Committee constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

The full text of the Regulation is available at the UGC website www.ugc.ac.in)

TEZPUR UNIVERSITY

A Ragging Free Campus

Installation of Banners in various colleges by DLSA, Sonitpur

Permanent display board fixed by college authorities