



AL-AZHAR DENTAL COLLEGE

(APPROVED BY DENTAL COUNCIL OF INDIA
& AFFILIATED TO KERALA UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCE)
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ANTI-RAGGING POLICY

Ragging remains a prevalent problem in the higher education system of our country, despite its harmful effects such as loss of life and career opportunities for students. Some individuals still view it as a means of socialization and introduction to the real world for young college students. To address this issue, the institution has created an Anti-Ragging Committee aimed at reducing the negative impacts of ragging on campus.

According to the Raghvan Committee established by the Supreme Court, the institution recognizes various behaviors as ragging, which encompasses psychological, social, political, economic, cultural, and academic aspects.

- (i) Any act that prevents, disrupts or disturbs the regular academic activity of a student should be considered within the academics related aspect of ragging; similarly, exploiting the services of a junior student for completing the academic tasks assigned to an individual or a group of seniors is also an aspect of academics related ragging prevalent in many institutions, particularly in the professional institutions in medicine.
- (ii) Any act of financial extortion or forceful expenditure burden put on a junior student by senior students should be considered an aspect of ragging for ragging economic dimensions.
- (iii) Any act of physical abuse including all variants of it: sexual abuse, homosexual assaults, stripping, forcing obscene and lewd acts. gestures, causing bodily harm or any other danger to health or person can be put in the category of ragging with criminal dimensions.
- (iv) Any act or abuse by spoken words, emails, snail-mails, public insults should be considered with in the psychological aspects of ragging. This aspect would also include deriving perverted pleasure, vicarious or sadistic thrill from actively or passively participating in the discomfiture to others; the absence of preparing 'freshers' in the run up to their admission to higher education and life in hostels also can be ascribed as a psychological aspect of ragging — coping skills in interaction with seniors or strangers can be imparted by parents as well. Any act that affects the mental health and self-confidence of students also can be described in terms of the psychological aspect of ragging.

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- (v) The political aspect of ragging is apparent from the fact that incidents of ragging are low in institutions which promote democratic participation of students in representation and provide an identity to students to participate in governance and decision making within the institute bodies.
- (vi) The human rights perspective of ragging involves the injury caused to the fundamental right to human dignity through humiliation heaped on junior students by seniors; often resulting in the extreme step of suicide by the victims.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE INSTITUTION AS PER UGC GUIDELINES GIVEN TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN 2009

Here are five measures that the institution has taken to combat ragging on campus:

- I. The institution conducts awareness campaigns and programs to educate students about anti-ragging and spread awareness.
- II. Posters and banners are displayed around the campus to educate students about anti-ragging measures.
- III. An anti-ragging squad has been formed to handle complaints and conduct investigations.
- IV. An anti-ragging monitoring cell has been set up to keep a close eye on the daily activities of students and take necessary action against any instances of ragging.
- V. The hostel wardens are regularly empowered to take steps against ragging on campus.

MODE OF COMPLAINT REGISTRATION AT THE INSTITUTION

If a student is a victim of ragging, they must provide a written complaint in their own words to the head of the institution. If the head of the institution is not present, the complaint can be given to any member of the anti-ragging committee. The committee will then conduct an enquiry and submit a report to the head of the institution. Based on the report, the head of the institution will determine if a case under penal laws is warranted. If so, the head of the institution or a member of the Anti-Ragging Committee authorized by the head will file a First Information Report (FIR) with the police and local authorities within 24 hours of receiving the information or recommendation.



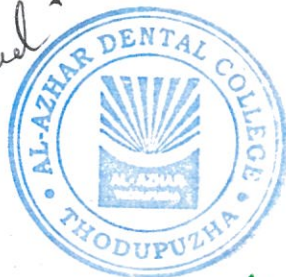
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ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE INSTITUTION LEVEL AS PER THE UGC GUIDELINES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION DATED APRIL 2009 (UNDER SECTION 26(1)(g) OF THE UGC ACT,1956)

The Anti-Ragging Committee of the institution will determine the possible punishments for those found guilty of ragging based on the nature and gravity of the offence. The punishments may include one or a combination of the following:

- Suspension from attending classes and academic privileges,
- Withholding or withdrawing scholarship or fellowship and other benefits,
- Debarring from appearing in any test or examination,
- Withholding results,
- Debarring from representing the institution in any regional, national or international meet, tournament, youth festival, etc.,
- Suspension or expulsion from the hostel,
- Cancellation of admission,
- Rustication from the institution for a period ranging from 1-2 years
- Expulsion from the institution and consequent debarring from admission to any other institution for a specified period, or
- Collective punishment in cases where the persons committing or abetting the crime of ragging are not identified.

Dr. Little Manuel



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