



MANAKULA VINAYAGAR

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

(An Autonomous Institution)

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ANTI RAGGING POLICY

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PREFACE

1. INTRODUCTION

‘*Merit*’ and ‘*Ethics*’ being the core driving values towards turning out professionals of high caliber with strong sense of ethical judgments, social integration of student’s population coming from different parts of the country with most diverse cultural and social back grounds, becomes a matter of prime importance. ‘Ragging’ a social menace, as such has no place in academic environment of the Institute and concerted efforts are required to be in place to prevent its occurrence at any point of time. Hence the need for a balanced ‘anti- ragging policy’ to be adopted by the Institute.

Hon’ble Supreme Court of India, during 2007 has expressed concern over the incidents of ragging occurring in higher educational institutions and the need to eliminate it altogether.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India has taken a serious note of the incidents of ragging and is of the view that stern action should be taken against those indulging in “ragging” so that these incidents are not repeated and exemplary punishment is meted out to those indulging in it. Strict implementation of the guidelines issued by Hon’ble Supreme Court on this issue has also been stressed by the Ministry.

Ragging is a criminal offence and lowers the standards of education. The ‘anti- ragging policy’ adopted by the Institute takes care of preventive, procedural and punitive aspects of ragging based on the guidelines provided by Hon’ble Supreme Court of India, recommendations of the Raghavan Committee, instructions/guidelines issued by the Ministry of HRD (Govt. of India).

2. ANTI-RAGGING POLICY

This policy encourages socialization of students to the academic environment of the Institute, simultaneously discouraging and preventing any negative acts on parts of senior students, which goes against the basic purpose of socio-academic integration. The ‘anti- ragging policy’ adopted by the Institute therefore is aimed at:

- a. Creation, development and nurturing a conducive, socio-academic environment within the student population.
- b. Generating and maintaining a high level of confidence within new entrants and their parents/guardians to perceive that fresh entrants to the Institute are welcome and provided support, rather than being harassed and intimidated.

- c. Keeping in place an integrated system to discourage and prevent any negative acts like ‘ragging’ by the seniors, which disrupts socio-academic integration of new entrants.
- d. Prescribing deterrent measures for any violation of the “Anti-Ragging Policy” by way of disciplinary measures.

3. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy the following are defined as under: -

‘Institute’ means the Manakula Vinayagar Institute of Technology, Puducherry.

‘Student’ includes any person who is enrolled for any course, whether full time or part time with the Institute. This also includes research associates/scholars or a visitors, and / or a repeaters.

‘Hostel’ includes the place/(s) where students are accommodated through institutional arrangement.

‘Ragging’ constitutes one or more of any of the following acts:

- a. A conduct by any student or a group of students whether by words spoken or written or by an act which has the effect of teasing, treating or handling any other student with rudeness;
- b. Indulging in rowdy or undisciplined activities by a student or group of students which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship, physical or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in any other student;
- c. Asking a student to do any act which the student will not carry out in the ordinary course and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame, or torment or embarrassment so as to adversely affect the physique or psyche of such student(s);
- d. any act by a student that prevents, disrupts or disturbs the regular academic activity of any other student(s);
- e. Exploiting the services of any student for completing the academic tasks assigned to an individual or a group of students.
- f. Any act of financial extortion or forceful expenditure burden put on a student by any other student or a group of students;
- g. 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;
- h. Any act or abuse by spoken words, emails, posts, social networking posts,

- e- posts, public insults which would also include deriving perverted pleasure, vicarious or sadistic thrill from actively or passively participating in the discomfiture to a student(s);
- i. Any act that affects the mental health and self-confidence of a student with or without an intent to derive a sadistic pleasure or showing off power, authority or superiority by any student or a group of students over any other student(s).

4. PREVENTIVE ASPECTS OF RAGGING

As a Systematic Effort for Socio-Academic Integration of New Entrants, ARC should be constituted at Institute level as per the guidelines of UGC to monitor the various aspects related to menace of ragging. The members of this committee shall be nominated by the Principal.

a. Address by the Competent Authorities of the Institute.

The Principal, Coordinator, HOD's of all departments, 1st year coordinators and other concerned official(s) during their address/discussions to/with parents/guardians, admission aspirants/ fresh entrants/ students at the time of counselling meets, new batch induction on registration, batch inaugurals and other such occasions, should invariably assure the students and parents about full protection and support against any attempts of ragging by seniors while briefly introducing the '*Anti Ragging Policy*' of the Institute. The efforts during such meets be directed towards achieving socio-academic integration of new entrants with the specific merit oriented environment of mutuality and trust of the Institute.

b. New batch inaugurals

The coordinator and faculty members, during new batch inaugurals may provide to the students, the guidelines on expected behavioral norms wherein a mention to the Anti ragging policy may be made.

c. Welcome Party for New Entrants

Senior student members shall be encouraged to organize a "*Welcome Party*" for new entrants. For the said purpose an organizing committee may be constituted comprising of selected senior student members of which, a Coordinator and faculty members to the extent possible, should participate in such a party.

d. Discipline Committee

'Discipline committee' shall function under the guidance of a Principal and in direct supervision of the Discipline committee Coordinator and Anti-Ragging Committee (ARC). The committee will monitor the 'Psychological Behavior /

behavioral aberration of new students. If any abnormal behavior or environmental adjustment problem observed, the same shall be reported to the 'ARC Coordinator' to probe on for any ragging related issues.

e. Watch and Ward arrangements

The Institute has identified following vulnerable locations

- i. Hostel blocks and mess,
- ii. Vacant class rooms.
- iii. Auditorium
- iv. Canteen,
- v. Playground / Gymnasium
- vi. Student activity centres,
- vii. Favorite joints of students in the vicinity.

All concerned are to keep a constant vigil and watch at such locations including monitoring of the atmosphere and the environment at eating 'Joints' (Canteens, Mess etc.), Hostel / accommodations, where students are accommodated.

These areas are needed to be carefully guarded if required by posting security personnel.

Wide – dissemination of Anti-Ragging Policy Prospectus and Admission forms

- i. All prospectuses should contain a specific caution that "Ragging is banned in the Institute, and anyone found indulging in ragging, is likely to be punished appropriately which may include expulsion from the institute."
- ii. All students and parents of the Institute are required to sign an anti-ragging declaration forms at the time of admission to the institute.
<https://www.antiragging.in/>

Erection of Posters

ARC may put up posters in prominent places within the campus to exhort students to prevent or not to indulge in ragging, also mentioning the names of the officials and their contact numbers, to be contacted in case of "ragging". The same needs to be displayed on the website of the institute.

5. MONITORING ASPECTS OF RAGGING

Anti-Ragging Surveys

Anonymous random surveys, across first year students be carried out every fortnight, during first three months, at all the constituents of the Institute, to verify and check, whether the campus is indeed free from 'ragging'.

6. PROCEDURAL AND PUNITIVE ASPECTS OF “RAGGING”

First Information Person (FIP)

- (a) ‘First Information Person (FIP)’ would be nominated by the Institute at beginning of each academic year. The FIP would provide first instance intervention in case of any complaint of “ragging”.
- (b) FIP will also need to co-ordinate the preventive aspects of ragging, under guidance of the **Coordinator ARC** aiming to create a “ragging free environment”
- (c) FIP will be responsible for taking steps to ensure that cases of “ragging” within the institute are brought to the notice of the **Coordinator ARC** as soon as possible.
- (d) FIP is empowered to deal with informal complaints of “ragging” and/or take suo-moto cognizance of any such incident.

Ragging Reporting Procedure

- (a) If any individual believes that he or she has been subjected to ‘ragging’ or has knowledge of any such incident, such person (or FIP, who may have assisted the complainants or those, who have otherwise observed / known about “ragging”) shall have option to file a complaint with the Coordinator ARC. This may be done in writing or orally. Written complaint is preferable.
- (b) FIP or member/s of the ARC will also be available to discuss any concerns exhibited by any student or a group of students, about ragging.
- (c) All formal/Informal complaints of “ragging” may be made to the FIP within the constituent unit or directly to Coordinator ARC as stated above.

ARC as Enquiry Committee

ARC will investigate all reported cases of ragging, in such a way, so as to maintain confidentiality to the extent practicable under the circumstances. The investigations should start maximum within three (03) days of reporting the incident and reports finalized by the ARC pinpointing the involvement of the accused along with recommendations relating to the punishment will be submitted to the competent authority maximum within a period of four (04) weeks. In exceptional circumstances, the Coordinator ARC may grant extension to the time limit under information to the complainant and the accused.

Process of Enquiry

The process of enquiry should be such to ensure that principles of natural justice are adhered to. Details of the process would be identical as in the case of ‘Internal

Complaints Committee (ICC)' adopted by the Institute. If the ragging also includes an element of sexual harassment, then in that case both committees i.e. ARC and ICC will look into the matter independently of each other.

Punishment / Penalties for 'ragging'

Based on the report of enquiry submitted by the ARC, the Coordinator ARC will recommend to the competent authority any of the punishment/(s) listed below or any other kind of punishment, which she/he may consider to be appropriate.

- (a) Withholding scholarships or other benefits
- (b) Debarring from representation of events.
- (c) Withholding results
- (d) Expulsion from Institute.
- (e) Debarring from examination/s.
- (f) Suspension from the institute or class for a limited period.
- (g) Fine with public apology
- (h) Prosecuting for criminal offence.
- (i) Filing FIR with the local police
- (j) Cancellation of admission

Appeal

Appeal with regards to any action taken against the accused at any level and / or against the punishment awarded under this policy, shall lie with the Head of the Institute, which should be filed within a period of two weeks from such an action or award of punishment.

7. SAVING AND REPEAL CLAUSE

Director of the Institute will possess the sole authority for any interpretation, modification, or amendment to the policy depending upon the need from time to time. She/He will also possess powers to exercise her/his discretion with respect to any or all of the clauses of this policy.

NOTE:

Anti-Ragging affidavit should be signed by the student in a prescribed format and another Anti Ragging Affidavit to be signed by a Parent/Guardian. (Both these Affidavits are available at <https://www.antiragging.in/>)



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