

Mandatory reading material for all students of IIT Kharagpur

The legal definition of ragging:

'Ragging' means the doing of any act which causes, or is likely to cause any physical, psychological or physiological harm of apprehension or shame or embarrassment to a student and includes:

- a) Teasing or abusing or playing practical joke on, or causing hurt to any student.
- b) Asking any student to do any act, or perform anything, which he/she would not, in the ordinary course, be willing to do or perform.

Types of abuses and activities-termed as ragging:

- **Physical abuse**, for example, forcing to eat, drink or smoke, forcing to dress or undress.
- **Verbal abuse**, for example swear words and phrases, direct or indirect derogatory references to the person's appearance, attire, religion, caste, family or chosen field of study.
- **Forced activity**, for example
 - ✓ Chores for seniors e.g. copying notes, cleaning rooms etc.
 - ✓ Missing classes. Not being allowed to study.
 - ✓ Staying awake late or getting up at unreasonable times.
 - ✓ Singing or dancing or performing in any other way.
 - ✓ Using four languages or shouting or cheering loudly.
 - ✓ Misbehaving with strangers, particularly women.
 - ✓ Reading or browsing Porno-graphic/objectionable material.
- **Lifestyle restrictions**, for example
 - ✓ Not allowing certain kinds of clothing or accessories e.g. jeans, belts etc.
 - ✓ Enforcing rules regarding shaving or oiling hair. Forcing certain kinds of dress.
 - ✓ Restricting access to parts of the hostel e.g. common room.
 - ✓ Requiring certain modes of address i.e. seniors should be called Sir or Ma'am.
 - ✓ Requiring a particular wake-up time.

Observation and Directives of the Supreme Court:

The Supreme Court of India has observed that enrolment in academic pursuits or a campus life should not immunize any adult citizen from the penal provisions of the laws of the land.

According to the directions of the Supreme Court if any instance of ragging is brought to the notice of the administration or the faculty, it is legally binding on us to report the matter to the Local Police. See www.iitkgp.an.in/dosa for details.