

SCMS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

ANTI RAGGING POLICY

1. Introduction:

Ragging is a cognizable offence (offence for which the police can arrest the offender without warrant) for which provisions are made in the Indian legal system. This heinous practice has caused deaths and suicides of many bright students in the recent past in India, forcing the Supreme Court to take a serious view of the menace. Recommendations, deterrents and justifiably harsh punishment to those guilty of ragging have been given impetus for the same.

If a ragging complaint by against a student is found valid after an investigation by the concerned committee, a criminal case may be filed and the culprit will follow due process as per law. Being an institution that strongly condemns this act, it is duty bound to take strong action against the offender irrespective of gender, caste, creed, financial or political standing.

According to clinical psychologists and counsellors, ragging can impact the victims in many ways. It can lead to negative repercussions like low self-esteem, depression and anxiety, a negative valuation of oneself and frustration at being helpless and not being able to defend oneself. This not only affects the academic performance of the individual, but brings down the prestige of the Institution in general.

As per the Supreme Court directive, the primary responsibility of preventing ragging rests with the educational institution itself, by sensitizing the students and parents on the highly immoral side of ragging, cautioning the students that indulging in ragging can dash all their career goals, and by taking stern action against the offenders.

Social interaction amongst students within the same class and amongst senior and junior students is a mandatory requirement in the field of education and more so in the architectural educational system, generating bonds for life amongst the students. However, the same can not be possible in an atmosphere of anxiety and fear for students of the lower semesters. Keeping this requirement and the benefits of such healthy interaction, the following policy has been formulated at this institution.

The primary aim of the policy is as follows:

- 1.1. Foster an environment aimed at creating an environment conducive to socio academic process amongst the students.

- 1.2. Confidence building exercise to newly enrolled students and their parents and assure them that their wards are protected, supported and looked after against any incidents of ragging.
- 1.3. To develop a system that is a deterrent to the menace of ragging and reaffirm the institution's stand of zero tolerance to ragging.
- 1.4. Lay down the regulations and disciplinary requirements of to prevent violation of the Anti-Ragging policy.

2. The following shall constitute, in general, what may be termed as "Ragging".

- 2.1 An act by any student or groups of students who, by words (spoken or written) or by any action that amounts to rudeness, humiliating, making fun, mis-treating or passing rude and improper comments on any other student, at any time, within the campus or outside.
- 2.2 Any act of causing physical or mental trauma, instil fear or anxiety by way of taunts, physical man- handling etc with the deliberate intent to hurt the student.
- 2.3 Acts that may affect the normal course of academic and non-academic work that a student is expected to carry out.
- 2.4 Financial exploitation of students through threats, physical or mental abuse etc.
- 2.5 Exploiting students by any means, to complete the academic works of another student or group of students, without the free will of that student.
- 2.6 Forcing a student to do any acts, actions (verbal or physical) that is not normally done in the course of one's life as a person or student in an attempt to cause shame, humiliation, undermine one's capabilities, social or financial background etc.
- 2.7 Any discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, religion, region or sexual orientation.
- 2.8 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, both physically or psychologically.
- 2.9 Any attempts to affect the mental wellbeing, self-confidence, self-esteem of any student, by show of power or superiority over the student in the intention of deriving sadistic pleasure from the act.

3. Efforts to bring awareness of 'Anti- Ragging Policy'

- 3.1. All prospectus of the institution to highlight that "ragging is a punishable offense and it banned in all forms by the institution. Any individual found indulging in such practices will be dealt with appropriately and may include actions such as legal proceedings and expulsion from the institution'

- 3.2. All students and parent/guardian are required to sign a joint anti-ragging declaration at the time of admission.
- 3.3. Posters to be placed at prominent locations within the institution building to prevent students from indulging in ragging.
- 3.4. Contact details of members of the anti-ragging cell to be displayed on the notice board and in the posters.
- 3.5. Any complaints of ragging is to be given in writing to the Principal or emailed to ssa.antiharassmentcell@scmsgroup.org

4. Monitoring Aspects of Ragging

- 4.1. Anti-Ragging Committee (ARC): The institution shall constitute an anti-ragging committee at the institutional level. The members of the committee shall be nominated by the principal. The maximum number of members should be 5, of which at least one should necessarily be a female member. The committee may have the Dean as the chairperson and comprise of senior faculty members and one member from the student council.
- 4.2. The ARC will investigate all cases of ragging that is reported in a fair and just manner. The enquiry report is to be forwarded to the principal/ director/ management of the institution within 3 weeks from the report of the incident.

5. Punishment/ penalty for Ragging

- 5.1. On submission of the enquiry report and the recommendations of the committee to the principal/ director/ management, the following punishments may be enforced upon the perpetrators.
 - 5.1.1. Withholding Scholarships/ other financial benefits.
 - 5.1.2. Debar the student from participating or being a representative of the institution for any events/ programs.
 - 5.1.3. Report to the university.
 - 5.1.4. Suspension from the institution for a specific period.
 - 5.1.5. Expulsion from the institution.
 - 5.1.6. Filing of FIR and criminal proceedings as per law.

6. Appeal:

- 6.1.1. Appeal with regards to any action taken against the accused at any level and / or against the punishment awarded under this policy, shall be at the discretion of the Director of the Institution or Vice Chairman of the institution. Appeal has to be filed within one week from award of punishment,

ANNEXURE –I
AFFIDAVIT BY STUDENT

I,.....Registration No
..... Year.....Batch having been admitted to the SCMS
School of Architecture, have received a copy of the Institute’s anti-ragging policy. I had
carefully read and fully understood the provisions contained in the said policy.

I have, in particular, perused clause 2 of the policy and am aware as to what constitutes
ragging.

I have also, in particulars, perused clause 5 of the policy and am fully aware of the penal and
administrative action that is liable to be taken against me in case I am found guilty of or abetting
ragging, actively or passively, or being part of a conspiracy to promote ragging.

I hereby solemnly undertake that

(a) I will not indulge in any behaviour or act that may be constituted as ragging under clause
2 of the policy.

(b) I will not participate in or abet or propagate any act that may be constituted as ragging
under clause 2 of the policy.

I hereby affirm that, if found guilty of ragging, I am liable to punishment according to clause 5
of the policy, without prejudice to any other criminal action that may be taken against me under
any penal law or any law in force at the time.

I hereby declare that I have not been expelled or debarred from admission in any institution in
the country on account of being found guilty of, abetting or being part of a conspiracy to
promote, ragging; and further affirm that, in case the declaration is found to be untrue, I am
aware that my admission is liable to be cancelled.

Declared thisday ofmonth of.....year

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT

NAME.....

VERIFICATION

Verified that the contents of this affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and no part of
the affidavit is false and nothing has been concealed or misstated therein.

Verified aton this the day ofmonth of.....year.....

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT

ANNEXURE –II

AFFIDAVIT BY PARENT/GUARDIAN

I, Mr./Mrs.....declare that, my ward, Mr./Ms.....enrolled in the B. Arch program at the SCMS School of Architecture, with Registration No..... Year.....and Batch....., have received a copy of the institute’s anti – ragging policy and had carefully read and fully understood the provisions contained in the said policy.

I have, in particular, perused clause 2 of the policy and am aware as to what constitutes ragging.

I have also, in particulars, perused clause 5 of the policy and am fully aware of the penal and administrative action that is liable to be taken against my ward in case he/she is found guilty of or abetting ragging, actively or passively, or being part of a conspiracy to promote ragging.

I hereby solemnly aver and undertake that

- a) My ward will not indulge in any behaviour or act that may be constituted as ragging under clause 2 of the Regulations.
- b) My ward will not participate in or abets or propagates any act that may be constituted as ragging under clause 2 of the Regulations.

I hereby affirm that, if found guilty of ragging, my ward is liable to punishment according to clause 5 of the Regulations, without prejudice to any other criminal action that may be taken against my ward under any penal law or any law in force at the time.

I hereby declare that my ward has not been expelled or debarred from admission in any institution in the country on account of being found guilty of, abetting or being part of a conspiracy to promote, ragging; and further affirm that, in case the declaration is found to be untrue, the admission of my ward is liable to be cancelled.

Declared thisday ofmonth of.....year

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/ GUARDIAN
NAME.....

VERIFICATION

Verified that the contents of this affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and no part of the affidavit is false and nothing has been concealed or misstated therein.

Verified aton this the day ofmonth of.....year.....

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/ GUARDIAN