

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
HIGHER EDUCATION (CE) DEPARTMENT

U.O.No.7525/CE/A1/2015

Dated:04-08-2015

ANTI RAGGING POLICY

Recently, Miss Rishiteswari, 1st year B.Tech student of Acharya Nagarjuna University has committed suicide on 14th July, 2015 in the hostel room. It appears that she has undergone harassment and committed suicide under stress. The CMO has directed the Department to put an Anti Ragging Policy in place in the State to prevent such incidents of harassment in future. The Hon'ble Minister for HRD, Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken review of safety and disciplinary measures being taken up in various Universities, on 27th July, 2015 at Tirupati. A.P. Prohibition of Ragging Act was also passed in 1997 and University Grants Commission(UGC) has also passed regulations on menace of ragging and conveyed to all educational institutions. However, there is need to (i) reiterate these guidelines to all Universities and Colleges in the State and (ii) also to give directions to operationalize the Act and the Guidelines in proper spirit.

The State Government has passed the **Andhra Pradesh Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1997 (Act No 26 of 1997) (copy enclosed)**. The main points of the Act are summarized below:-

- Section 3 of the above said Act prohibits ragging within or outside any educational institution.
- Section 4 of the Act, specifies that whoever teases or embarrasses or humiliates a student shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both (or) assaults or uses criminal force to or criminally intimidates, a student shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees or with both (or) wrongfully restrains or wrongfully confines or causes hurt to a student shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees or with both (or) causes grievous hurt to or kidnaps or abducts or rapes or commits unnatural offence with a student shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees (or) causes death or abets suicide shall be punished with imprisonment for life or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years and with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees.
- Section 6 of the Act provides the responsibility of the head /manager of educational institution, upon receiving any complaint on ragging, to inquire into or cause an inquiry to be made forthwith and take such action as deemed necessary. Section 7 provides for punishment to Head/Manager of educational institution in case of negligence.

(PTO)

In order to implement the above Andhra Pradesh Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1997 (Act No 26 of 1997), the Government issued certain rules vide **G.O.Ms.No.67, Higher Education(EC)Department,Dated:31-08-2002** in which a **review committee** shall be constituted by the District Collector as Chairman and the composition of the committee will be (i) Collector as Chairman, (ii) Superintendent of Police as Vice-Chairman, (iii) Revenue Divisional Officer, Sub-Divisional Police Officers and College Principal as Members. The Committee shall meet twice before the academic session and twice during the academic session to review the prevalent situation and evolve effective measures to combat ragging. Apart from the review committee, the educational institutions should provide for the constitution of a committee consisting of parents and guardians of the students.

The **University Grants Commission(UGC)** has also issued regulations(copy enclosed) on curbing the menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009. Regulations have been issued keeping in view the Judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court in "University of Kerala v/s Council, Principals, Colleges and Others" to curb the menace of ragging in the educational institutions in the country. The same has been conveyed to all the Universities and other educational institutions for implementation of the same vide F116/2007(CPP-II) dt.17-6-2009. In the said regulations the University Grants Commission has clearly defined what amounts to ragging and the measures to be taken for its prevention in educational institutions in the Country.

Main points of the UGC Regulations are as follows:

- Regulation 6 of the above said UGC letter, clearly defines the measures to be taken by educational institutions to effectively curb the ragging.
- As per Regulation 6.3 every institution shall constitute a Committee to be known as **Anti Ragging Committee** to be nominated and headed by the Head of the institution consisting representatives of Civil and Police, Local media, Non-Govt. Organizations, Representatives of faculty members, parents and students.
- Every Institution shall also constitute a smaller body to be known as the **Anti Ragging Squad** to be nominated by the HoD.
- Every Institution shall constitute a body to be known as Monitoring Cell on ragging which shall coordinate with the affiliated colleges and institutions under domain of the University to achieve the objectives of the Regulations.
- The duties and responsibilities of the above Committees, the action to be taken by the Head of Institution and **punitive measures** are defined at regulation No.6-9.

The Government have also constituted an Enquiry Committee vide G.O.Rt.No.350, Higher Education (UE)Dept., dt.27-7-2015 with a request to submit their report within (5) days. The report must include, assessment of action taken and recommendation on further action to be taken in specific case and also to prevent such incidents in future.

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Meanwhile, the Government has also issued the following disciplinary guidelines vide Circular Memo No. 7524/CE/A1/2015 dt.25-7-2015 for Universities and Colleges hostels, keeping in view of the recent incident

1. No outsiders other than inmates of the hostels shall stay in the hostels and no outsiders shall stay on campus, whatsoever;
2. The entry into hostels and Mess shall be by biometric identity only;
3. The hostel corridors shall have CC-TV cameras fixed;
4. The biometric data and video footage shall be monitored by third-party arrangement to avoid tampering;
5. A periodical inspection and cross verification of data shall be verified by the administrative staff.

The Vice-Chancellors of all Universities in Andhra Pradesh State / Commissioner of Collegiate Education / Commissioner of Technical Education, A.P., Hyderabad are advised to adhere to the above guidelines and rules issued vide G.O.Ms.No.67, Higher Education(EC)Department, dt.31-08-2002 (copy enclosed) and implement scrupulously.

All Vice Chancellors will hold review meetings with all College Principals in their jurisdiction (Govt.Degree Colleges, Aided and Unaided Degree Colleges, Engineering Colleges, other Higher Educational Institutions) and report compliance by 14th August, 2015.

SUMITA DAWRA
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

Enclosures:-

- (i) Copy of A.P. Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1997.
- (ii) G.O.Ms.No.67, Higher Education(EC)Department, dt.31-08-2002.
- (iii) UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009.

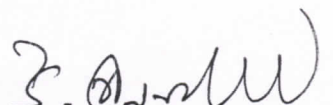
To

The Vice-Chancellors of all Universities in Andhra Pradesh State.
(Through : The Secretary, A.P.State Council of Higher Education, Hyderabad)
The Secretary, A.P.State Council of Higher Education, Hyderabad
The Commissioner of Collegiate Education, A.P., Hyderabad.
The Commissioner of Technical Education, A.P., Hyderabad.

Copy to:-

All District Collectors and Superintendents of Police for immediate review committee meetings in respective Districts.
The P.S. to Chief Secretary to Government.
The P.S. to Principal Secretary, CMO.
The P.S. to Hon'ble Minister(HRD).
SC/SF

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //


SECTION OFFICER