



Saraswathi College of Arts & Science, Vilappil

Anti-Ragging Policy

Saraswathi College of Arts and Science, Vilappil recognizes that ragging is a grave violation of student rights and an offense punishable by law. The college is fully committed to implementing the University Grants Commission (UGC) directives on eliminating ragging from all campuses and affiliated institutions. This policy lays out stringent measures and a support framework to ensure the safety, dignity, and well-being of every student.

Objectives of the Policy

Ragging is defined as any intentional conduct by students, whether by words spoken or written or by an act that causes physical, mental, or emotional harm to another student. This includes but is not limited to actions that:

What Constitutes Ragging?

1. **Verbal or Written Harassment** – Any spoken or written words, actions, or gestures that tease, insult, or humiliate a fresher or any other student, causing psychological distress.
2. **Physical or Psychological Harm** – Engaging in rowdy or undisciplined activities that cause or are likely to cause annoyance, hardship, fear, or mental/physical trauma to any student.
3. **Forced or Degrading Acts** – Compelling a student to perform tasks they would not ordinarily do, leading to shame, embarrassment, or psychological torment.
4. **Disruption of Academic Activities** – Any act by a senior student that prevents, disturbs, or negatively impacts the academic environment or progress of a fresher or any other student.
5. **Exploitation and Financial Extortion** – Forcing a student to complete academic tasks for others or subjecting them to financial burden through extortion or coercion.
6. **Abuse and Assault** – Any form of physical abuse, including sexual harassment, assault, obscene gestures, or any act that endangers the physical or mental well-being of a student.
7. **Threats and Power Play** – Intimidation, coercion, or acts that harm the self-confidence and mental health of a student, whether for sadistic pleasure or to assert superiority.

This anti-ragging policy aims to:

- Ensure a safe, respectful, and inclusive campus culture where students can pursue academic, social, and personal growth without fear or prejudice.
- Strengthen awareness among students, faculty, and staff about the detrimental impact of ragging.
- Enforce UGC's anti-ragging mandate through a structured and consistent mechanism that includes both preventive and disciplinary measures.
- Encourage community building and positive social interactions among students.

Prohibited Acts and Scope

Our anti-ragging policy applies to all students and college-affiliated personnel within the institution's jurisdiction, including classrooms, canteen, turf and other recreational areas.

Prohibited acts include:



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- Physical abuse, such as hitting, slapping, pushing, or any form of assault.
- Verbal abuse, including offensive language, insults, or racist, sexist, or derogatory remarks.
- Forced activities that demean or humiliate, such as performing tasks, physical exercises, or acts for the amusement of others.
- Harassment or intimidation that targets a student's background, personal appearance, or individual choices.
- Cyberbullying or any form of online harassment that targets a fellow student.

Preventive Measures

In alignment with UGC's guidelines, our college has adopted multiple measures to ensure a safe environment that discourages any form of ragging:

- **Public Awareness and Communication:** Anti-ragging policies are communicated through our website, e-brochures, e-prospectus, notice boards, and social media pages, ensuring visibility and awareness.
- **Anti-ragging affidavit and pledge:** During the admission period, students and their parents/guardians sign an anti-ragging affidavit, and once freshers have joined, the entire college takes a pledge against ragging.
- **Formation of Anti-Ragging Bodies:**
 - **Anti-Ragging Committee:** This committee comprises faculty, staff, students, and external members who oversee the enforcement of anti-ragging policies and promptly address complaints.
 - **Anti-Ragging Squad:** The Squad performs regular monitoring and surprise inspections across campus, especially in high-risk areas like hostels, canteens, and common rooms.
 - **Anti-Ragging Cell:** The cell is a dedicated support team for students, providing resources and counseling to report and manage incidents in a confidential manner.
- **CCTV Surveillance:** CCTV cameras are installed at critical points to prevent and monitor suspicious behavior and enhance safety.
- **Educational Workshops and Seminars:** Workshops and orientation programs are held for new students to build awareness and encourage positive social interactions. These sessions highlight the harms of ragging and underscore the consequences outlined by the college.
- **Professional Counseling Services:** Counselors provide confidential support, especially during the start of the academic year, to help students transition smoothly, feel welcome, and address any concerns.
- **Identification of High-Risk Zones:** Regular inspections are conducted in high-traffic areas like canteens to identify possible triggers of ragging and ensure immediate intervention. At the start of the academic year, teachers are assigned to all floors to monitor students during break times and ensure a ragging-free environment.



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- **Surprise Inspections:** Periodic, surprise checks are conducted in hostels, recreational rooms, bus stands, and other strategic locations to detect and deter ragging incidents.

Disciplinary Actions

To enforce a ragging-free environment, the following penalties are applied to those found guilty. The severity and recurrence of the offense will determine the specific action:

1. **Suspension from Classes and Academic Privileges:** A temporary ban on class attendance and participation in academic activities.
2. **Scholarship Withdrawal:** Termination of scholarships, fellowships, and any institutional benefits provided to the offender.
3. **Examination Debarment:** Prohibition from taking exams or any academic assessments.
4. **Withholding of Results:** Delay or withholding of academic results until compliance is met.
5. **Restriction from Extracurricular Representation:** Suspension from participating in regional, national, or international events, tournaments, and festivals.
6. **Hostel Suspension or Expulsion:** Temporary or permanent ban from hostel facilities.
7. **Admission Cancellation:** Immediate cancellation of admission, resulting in loss of student privileges.
8. **Rustication:** Expulsion from the college for one to two years, with an option to reapply based on behavior and compliance.
9. **Permanent Expulsion and Debarment:** Permanent removal from the college, along with a ban on admission to any other institution for a specified duration.

Reporting Procedure and Confidentiality

Our college maintains strict confidentiality in handling ragging complaints. Students can report incidents to faculty members, the Anti-Ragging Committee, or any member of the Anti-Ragging Cell. Complaints can also be filed anonymously if preferred, and all reports will be treated with urgency and sensitivity.

- **Investigation and Resolution:** The Anti-Ragging Committee investigates each complaint thoroughly, ensuring that fair and just action is taken against offenders.
- **Support for Victims:** Students affected by ragging will receive counseling and resources to help them recover and regain confidence.

Commitment to a Ragging-Free Campus

The institution holds every student accountable for maintaining a respectful and inclusive environment. Upon admission, each student signs an anti-ragging declaration, pledging to uphold these values. We encourage every member of our community to foster empathy, respect, and integrity, actively contributing to a campus where everyone can thrive without fear.