

Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Mahavidyalaya



Policy Document on Prevention of ragging in the Campus

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Executive Summary

Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Mahavidyalaya, a Govt.-aided institution affiliated to West Bengal State University has now already itself as a premier institute offering multidisciplinary undergraduate courses in the region. The college has been committed in offering the best academic ambience to the young learners for their academic development as well as for their holistic development. One of the stated objectives of the institution is that the campus will be conducive to the overall growth of the students. No wonder the institution aims at creating equitable, fearless and participative engagement of students in curricular and co-curricular activities. It is with this objective in mind we have developed and put in place a policy document with regard to the prevention of ragging in the campus.

The college boasts of 16 academic departments and offers necessary academic assistance and exposure to the students. The college is committed to imparting quality education to the learners aspiring for higher education and is thus very sensitive to the needs of the students. There has been remarkable development in the arena of infrastructure and adequate care has been taken to supplement traditional teaching learning mechanisms with ICT-enabled teaching methodologies. The college endeavours to instil the desire for excellence among the learners by offering necessary support services as well as helps in preparing the students to face the challenges of life. We have been very alert to the psycho-social issues of our young learners for whom regular counselling sessions as well as extra-curricular activities are organised. With a host of young dynamic teachers along with a number of experienced faculties, the college strives relentlessly to impart quality education to the students. While we are fully aware of certain infrastructural lacunae, we are happy to provide facilities like separate Common Rooms for boys and girls, gymnasium and a playground. The lush green campus of the college beautified with a small lake garlanding the space offers nothing less than a picturesque spectacle to the visitors. The teachers of the college with their zeal for teaching and research are a treasure of the institution and they display their enthusiasm for attaining excellence not only in their respective branch of study but also in their sensitive and caring approach to the students. The healthy, cooperative relationship between teachers and students not only makes learning fun but also offers a life-changing experience to the young learners. The sincere and cooperative approach of the office staff helps in running the administration smoothly. The different units of the college have been working in a collaborative manner to lead the institution towards realising the vision of the college.

Vision :

To make higher education accessible, gender-neutral, value-based, environment-friendly, inclusive and job-oriented through a synergy of all the stakeholders of the institution

Mission:

- To ensure quality education by adopting various quality control measures recommended by IQAC and other Bodies.
- To inculcate and promote scientific, democratic, progressive approach in learners by opting for supplementary co-curricular activities to strengthen the traditional curricular framework
- To engage with the local community for initiating meaningful change in the neighbouring area
- To strive for excellence and to get prepared for responding to the challenges by making use of the state-of-the-art technology in the day to day functioning of the institution
- To ensure holistic development of the learners by offering customised academic, psychosocial and skill-based training
- To promote gender-neutral, research-oriented and democratic academic ambience by adopting transparent, technology-based, environment-friendly and participatory mechanisms.
- To encourage and promote multidisciplinary approach in the domains of teaching- learning and research

Regulation on the Curbing of Menace of Ragging : A Context

Following the judgment passed by the Supreme Court of India and the resolution of the Central government and the University Grants Commission in curbing the menace of ragging in the higher education institutions, the first regulation in this regard was notified by the UGC in 2009. The objectives stated in the Regulation are as follows:

“To prohibit any conduct by any student or students whether by words spoken or written or by an act which has the effect of teasing, treating or handling with rudeness a fresher or any other student, or indulging in rowdy or indisciplined activities by any student or students which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in any fresher or any other student or asking any student to do any act

which such student will not in the ordinary course do 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 fresher or any other student, with or without an intent to derive a sadistic pleasure or showing off power, authority or superiority by a student over any fresher or any other student; and thereby, to eliminate ragging in all its forms from universities, deemed universities and other higher educational institutions in the country by prohibiting it under these regulations, and preventing its occurrence and punishing those who indulge in ragging as provided for in these Regulations and the appropriate law in force”.

Our college is very much alert and sensitive to this practice of ragging in the campus, and therefore necessary steps and measures are taken to curb this menace permanently.

Institutional Approach to Ragging: As an institution we believe in the multi-pronged mechanism that may be helpful in eradicating the menace of ragging in the campuses of higher education institution. It is in this respect we have adopted the policy of a) Preventing ragging in the campus through awareness-raising programmes and also of b) ensuring punitive measures for the offences in case untoward incidents happen.

- a) **Preventive Measures:** We believe that we must create such a friendly, participative academic ambience in the campus that inspires fellow-feeling, empathy and collaborative engagement as well as camaraderie. Therefore one of the prime focuses of our endeavour is to ensure such untoward incidents do not take place. Our stated policy towards this is zero tolerance and therefore we endeavour to make sure that no such cases really take place. This thought guides us in our journey towards making the campus free from ragging, and therefore we organize a number of programmes that alert, sensitize our learners about ragging and its menace. The poster/banner of ragging and its menace is put up in various strategic locations so as to sensitize learners about ragging. In addition to the banners/posters, we organize a number of events/workshops/talks to offer a nuanced understanding of ragging, and how we must make our campus a place for growth of the personality of students.
- b) **Punitive measures:** While the focus is on how to stop and eradicate ragging in the campus, we still need to prepare ourselves for any undesirable eventuality. We follow the guidelines issued by UGC and the State Government strictly. Following the guidelines, An Anti-ragging Cell/Committee has been formed and the committee is entrusted with the

task of circulating its message to students through various modes. The Cell/Committee is empowered to immediately look into any incident of ragging reported to the Cell/Committee either verbally or in written form, and all necessary measures and procedures will be initiated as per the prescribed rules/guidelines. The Cell/Committee under the Chairpersonship of the Principal will recommend the punitive measures to the Governing Body for its approval and execution.

Duties and Responsibilities of Anti-ragging Cell/Committee: The Anti-ragging Cell/Committee is empowered to take up immediately any incident of ragging and take necessary measures as prescribed in the extant regulations. In addition to that, the Committee is also bestowed with the task of creating a ragging-free campus by initiating programmes to sensitize students about the menace of ragging.

Elements of ragging:

- i) Any disorderly conduct whether by words, spoken or written, or by an act having the effect of teasing, treating a fresher or a junior student with rudeness;
- ii) Anyone indulging in activities that may cause annoyance or psychological harm, or raise fear amongst freshers or any other student(s);
- iii) Any act by a senior student that prevents, disrupts or disturbs the regular academic activity of any other student or a fresher;
- iv) Any act of financial extortion or forceful expenditure burden put on a fresher or any other student by other students;
- v) Any act that generates a sense of shame or embarrassment so as to adversely affect the physique or psyche of a fresher or junior student or any student;
- vi) Any act that affects the mental health and self-confidence of a fresher or any other student with or without intent to derive a sadistic pleasure or to show off power, authority or superiority over juniors or freshers.

PUNISHABLE INGREDIENTS OF RAGGING ACCORDING TO UGC REGULATIONS, 2009:

- i) Abetment to ragging;
- ii) Criminal conspiracy to rag;
- iii) Unlawful assembly and rioting while ragging;

- iv) Public nuisance created during ragging;
- v) Violation of decency and morals through ragging;
- vi) Injury to body, causing hurt or grievous hurt;
- vii) Wrongful restraint; Wrongful confinement;
- viii) Use of criminal force;
- ix) Assault as well as sexual offences or unnatural offences;
- x) Extortion;
- xi) Criminal trespass;
- xii) Offences against property;
- xiii) Criminal intimidation;
- xiv) Attempts to commit any or all of the above-mentioned offences against the victim(s);
- xv) Threat to commit any or all of the above-mentioned offences against the victim(s);
- xvi) Physical or psychological humiliation;
- xvii) All other offences following from the definition of “Ragging”.

Procedure of filing complaint: Any complainant may report any incident of ragging by sending a mail to the designated email id, and also by submitting the written complaint to the Grievance Redressal Box put up in the Main Building of the college.

Conclusion: Our institution is committed to offering the best possible academic ambience to the learners, and therefore the college adopts a policy of zero tolerance to ragging. While we are firm and strict in implementing the guidelines and actions prescribed in the Regulations, we take all possible measures to sensitize our students about the inhuman practice of ragging.

