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# Ragging in India

## *A Summary Report on Incidents, Social Perceptions and Psychological Perspectives*

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## 1. Introduction

Coalition to Uproot Ragging from Education (CURE) started off as a web-based discussion group focussing solely on ragging and related issues in July 2001. The aim was to collect the available information and present it to people in a manner they can relate to and understand. We wanted to evoke public opinion against ragging.

But what came as a rude shock to us was denial, denial not only to the existence of ragging, but denial of any suffering/ills of ragging. We thus identified the most difficult problem attached with the social evil of ragging, *denial*. Over the years, we have counselled anxious freshers who are about to join college about the ways and means to tackle ragging in college. We have received hate mails from people who believe ragging is good for students. We have been confronted by alumni of colleges whom we have exposed during our research investigations. We have met college authorities and explained to them our stand and beliefs.

Very few people were ready to accept the reality and all of them wanted to offer explanations for ragging. However, we held our ground, our focus and direction. This close interaction with all stakeholders in this phenomena has strengthened our belief and mission. CURE has grown both in terms of numbers as well as in our understanding of the phenomenon of ragging.

Today, CURE is at the forefront of ragging research in the country. CURE members spend several hours each week to brainstorm on ragging related issues, organise public awareness campaigns and activities. We have organised seminars, given talks and provided expert inputs on several talk shows in the media. CURE research is widely respected often referred to during ragging discussions, even on news channels.

This report is the essence of our understanding of ragging as a phenomenon and its possible solutions as we see them today. This is in no way complete and ragging continues to fascinate us as a psychological and social problem. However, even as a work in progress, this report raises several questions and directions to pursue in order to find a lasting solution to this problem.



## 2. Ragging: The Definition

The term “ragging” means different things to different people. To some of us it constitutes just “fun and frolic” including “singing and dancing” in front of seniors. To some others, it means working on assignments for seniors and doing their daily chores. For many others it constitutes physically tiring, verbally abusive or even sexually assaulting acts.

However, there is a general agreement that there must be a line defined which should not be crossed. Who should define the line and how should it be measured is the next question that arises. Again there are conflicts and several opinions on the same.

*Ragging is an act of aggression committed by an individual or a group of individuals (say A) over another individual or a group of individuals (say B) where A, by virtue of their being senior to B somehow get the authority and audacity to commit the act and B, by virtue of their being new to the institution are automatic victims.*

The term “aggression” again is debatable. However, we will divide it into the following broad categories. A single act may be a combination of more than one of the following types of aggression.

- *Verbal:* Verbal ragging is defined as a non-consensual conversation between the senior and freshman, where the senior humiliates the freshman, forces him to answer personally/socially-unacceptable questions/topics, teases/harrasses him/her, does an exhibition of his/her superiority leading to mental trauma, uneasiness, discomfort for the fresher.
- *Physical:* Physical ragging is defined as a non-consensual act by a senior toward the junior with the goal of hitting, inflicting physical injury or compromising the dignity of the fresher. Also, the act of asking the fresher to do something which is not normal human physical disposition; could create physical injury, health problems or lose of dignity for the freshman are considered physical ragging. Possible examples for the former are: beating the fresher, touching the fresher with one's shoe/feet, hitting the fresher with objects, etc. The latter would comprise asking the fresher to slap him/herself, sit in a 'cuckoo' position, drink/eat something inedible, stand for long on one feet, sweep his/her room, etc.
- *Sexual:* Sexual ragging is defined as an non-consensual act by a senior, that of asking the junior to do something which is damaging or compromises the sexual dignity of the junior; doing an act of sexual nature with the junior. This shall comprise of asking the junior to strip, have unnatural sex, masturbate in public, touch private parts, etc.



### 3. Problem of Ragging: A Bird's Eye View

Ragging is a psychological phenomenon. The psychology of seniors who indulge in ragging in spite of having faced the same just a year ago and the psychology of freshers who surrender their self respect completely to them.

Ragging is an interesting example of group push-pulls. The sociology of groups – seniors are a strong, existing group and a large number of new members suddenly join this group on a particular day. This group dynamics plays a major role in promoting, crossing lines and condoning the acts committed in the name of ragging. The group gives a feeling of security to the seniors who indulge in insensitive acts. In certain cases, the freshers too form a group and in most such cases things tend to turn ugly with violent clashes being common among the two groups.

Ragging is a problem of enduring suffering because everyone around me is suffering too. Ten times out of ten, the silence of the victims gains strength from the fact everyone in their batch is subjected to the same treatment. “Maybe, this is what is meant by college and growing up!”

Ragging is a problem of dreams and parental expectations. Dreams that seem to have been fulfilled at the point of gaining admission into the college. Expectations which are threatened when someone wants to withdraw from the college due to the inhuman environment around.

Ragging is a problem of law enforcement and saving reputations. In spite of several legislations passed over the years, laws of the land are seldom enforced. College reputations take priority over information being passed to law enforcement agencies of the government. “Do you know what will happen if the media comes to know about it?” Questions like these routinely pressurise freshers into withdrawing complaints.

Ragging is a problem which enjoys social acceptance. Indeed, there is no other way to explain the belief among some parents that ragging is actually good for their kids. Who on earth would encourage their kids to face up and tolerate horrible things happening to them in their colleges? Students who revolt against ragging are believed to have “broken down”. Is this what our society has to offer to someone who has garnered the courage to stand up against something wrong being done to him/her?

Ragging is a problem of social ignorance. Ragging is a problem of false beliefs. There are so many myths and factually incorrect assumptions floating around under which almost the entire society is blissfully ignorant. Ignorance of the reality, denial of its very existence by the society at large. Every discussion trying to make sense of this issue within the general public finds a large number of believers in ideas like “severe ragging is rare” and/or does not exist in most colleges, or the more common belief that ragging makes the fresher bold enough to face the world.



Ragging is the biggest fear of any student entering college, especially those moving away from home to lead lives in hostels. In fact, many times students choose colleges based on the perceived extent of ragging in different colleges.

This report attempts to analyse some of these problems and tries to find the underlying reasons and suggest approaches.



## 4. Current Extent of Ragging

*This section intended to discuss more than 200 reported cases of severe physical, mental and sexual abuses, that could be collected from internet newspaper archives (see Appendix), in the name of ragging in the past 9 years in the country. This list could be just a miniscule fraction of the actual number of ragging cases that have occurred, as not all the incidents of ragging are complained to the college authorities, not every complaint is reported in the newspapers and not every newspaper report is saved in the online archives. This figure certainly indicates an emergency like situation but serious effort has to be made to disseminate this information to the society, before it accepts ragging as a social evil.*

*A detailed analysis of the remaining cases will be released shortly.*

### 4.1 Introduction and Methodology

Ragging has been in considerable debate with regard to how widespread it is, its nature, the kind of colleges it is prevalent in and its effects. These are a few samples of the kind of questions under debate, there are many more of these and many of them have popular opinions (or myths) associated with them.

In this work, we look at the ragging cases reported in the media in the last two years to be able to understand different aspects of ragging based on evidence rather than popular belief, rhetoric or anecdotal evidence. Two years is a good amount of time to be able to make some quantitative claims and fairly short to be representative of the current scenario. The cases here are those reported in print media and news channels. They have been collected from the world-wide-web. All cases included in this study are from a news media house and not from a personal memoir, experience, blog or narration. Our team found 64 ragging cases reported from 2005 to present with no replications.

Before we delve into our analysis of the data, it is important to mention some of the limitations of our approach to provide a perspective to understand the findings. The given data is not based on survey and doesn't adhere to any randomization with regard to type of colleges, regions in India or other parameters. The choice of including (being reported or finding) a case is not made by us, but by the victim, college and/or the popular media. Therefore a number and nature of cases 'reported' is only loosely correlated to the actual number of cases that took place and their nature. The reported number is a pessimistic approximation of the real number; however the degree of pessimism is not known. Also, the real number of occurrences of different kinds of ragging could be misrepresented (represented disproportionately) in the report cases.



Given these caveats however, the numbers are astonishing and immensely disturbing. The pessimistic estimate is also worrisome. Given that this is the only data available, we shall provide its analysis and provide perspective throughout on how the numbers could be biased due to the mismatch in ‘reported cases’ vs. ‘actual occurrences’.

Since 2005, 64 cases of ragging (as defined in Section 1) have been reported, of which 61 were in colleges and 3 were reportedly from schools.

## 4.2 Kind of Ragging

Out of 61, we could ascertain the kind of ragging only for 41 cases. The distribution of the kind of ragging to which the fresher was subjected are summarized in Table 1. The definitions for the different ragging are as considered in Section 1.

Total Cases	61
Kind of ragging identified	41
Physical Ragging	25
Physical and Sexual Ragging	5
Sexual Ragging	8
Verbal	2
Not known	21

Table 1

A graphical representation of the number of cases of different kinds of ragging as a percent of known cases is shown in Figure 1. It can be seen that 62% reported cases were that of physical ragging, majority of which comprise of beating the fresher. Sexual ragging cases comprise of another 33%, where 13% cases not only comprised of sexual abuse, but physical violence. In general, the sexual ragging cases comprised of asking the fresher to strip, dance naked, imitate pornographic postures, etc. In two cases, one at Visva Bharti, Santiniketan and the other at School of Medical Education, Kottayam, the fresher were actually raped by the seniors on the name of ragging.

The instance of verbal ragging are low, however this is an obvious bias due to disproportionate reporting. Given that the verbal ragging cases are milder than physical or sexual ragging cases, they are generally not reported. On the other hand one would believe that the ratio of cases of physical ragging should be representative, given that its importance with regard to social norms is high. Also, one would expect the number of sexual ragging cases being underestimated given the shame and taboo associated with it for the victim and his/her family.



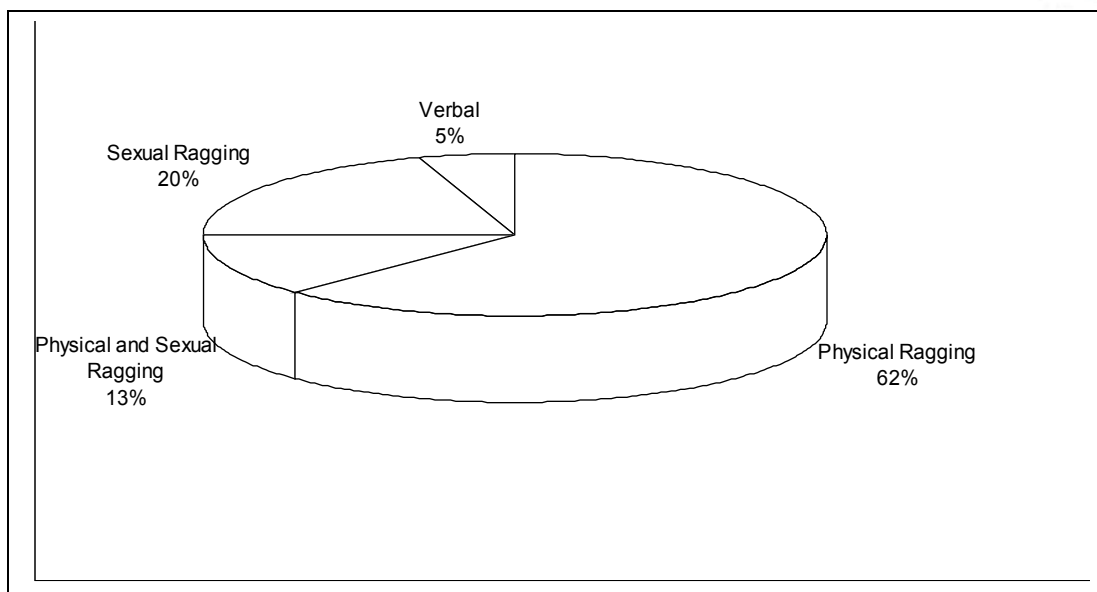


Figure 1

In absolute terms, the number of cases of physical ragging being 25 and sexual (inc. sexual with physical ragging) being 13 is startling. It should be noted that each of these are criminal offences in themselves, thus points toward more than 20 criminal offences perpetuated under the guise of ragging each year. Also, these are a pessimistic estimate. *This debunks the popular myth that sexual and physical ragging is no more prevalent after the Supreme Court Judgment of 2001.*

### 4.3 Consequences of Ragging

A lot of debate on ragging is hinged on its apparent harmlessness and fun nature. This belief is not only wrong, but a convenient oversimplification. A quantification of the outcomes of ragging is summarized in Table 2. *Death* refers to any death caused due to a ragging incident and not necessarily that of the fresher. *Injury* refers to reported physical injury or hospitalization. ‘Deterimental effect on mental health’ implies psychological disorders and depression. ‘Victim left college’ implies that the ragging victim fled the college due to ragging or further threats. In most cases, we are unable to ascertain whether the victim returned or not. ‘Violence’ refers to any violence or indiscipline that resulted in the college as a consequence of ragging. It doesn’t refer to the violence perpetrated on the victim by the senior during ragging.



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Deaths due to ragging	11
Suicide Attempts	10
Injury	23
Detrimental effect on	
Mental Health	12
Victim left College	5
Violence and Indiscipline	10

Table 2: Outcomes of ragging

A graphical representation of the statistics is shown in Figure 2. Ragging has caused a total of 10 deaths in the last 2 years, 10 of which were that of young college-going students. Surprisingly, all these deaths are not those of freshers. C. Lalitha, the mother of Mukesh ended her life due to the controversy surrounding the sexual abuse of her son during ragging (Andhra Pradesh, Sept 2006). Three of the ragging deaths were that of seniors: 2 seniors were killed by a first year student when he was being ragged (Vidyanagar, MP, Aug 2006); 1 senior ended his life when he was punished for ragging. The other 7 deaths were those of freshman, 6 who committed suicide due to ragging and one due to the result of brutal ragging (equivalent to murder). This statistics debunks the popular myth that ragging is just a cause of trouble for freshers. It has led to the death of senior students and even ruined a family as in case of C. Lalitha. The problem is far more complicated than in general assumed.

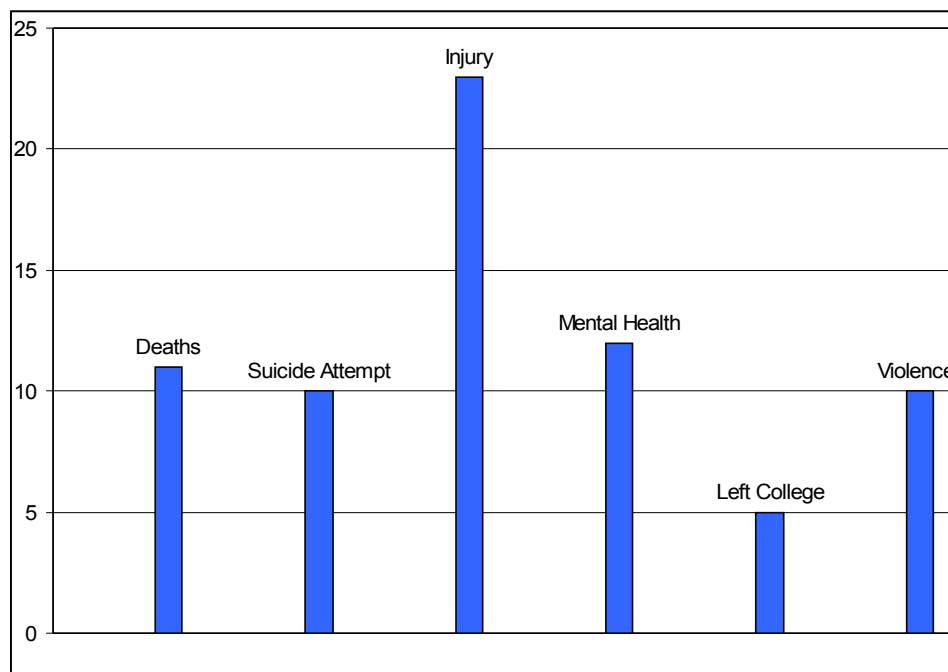


Figure 2: Outcomes of ragging



*Suicide attempts* refer to suicide attempts by freshers which may or may not have led to death. There were a total of 10 suicide attempts, out of which three individuals were saved. In the case, that these individuals were not saved the total death count would go to 14. Such a high number of suicide attempts by well-educated individuals coming from an economically-sufficient class of the society is highly disturbing. It has to also be considered that ragging is a punishable offence according to Indian Law.

Out of 42 cases for which ‘injury’ could be ascertained, a whopping 23 cases (54%) led to physical injury (like fractures) or hospitalization to students. *This totally debunks by all metrics the notion that ragging is harmless fun.* The flippant attitude of the media and the society in this regard is unfortunate and unjust. In many cases, more than one student was injured: 5 freshmen were hospitalized when they were beaten by seniors (Dehradun, Oct 2005); 2 freshman were injured, one in spine and a fracture in hand for the other (Andhra Prahash, Dec 2005), 6 freshmen beaten with iron rods (Timkur, Karnataka, Mar-2005), etc. In the case in Jammu, a junior girl was beaten up by senior girls leading to bruises and soft tissue injury.

Out of 42 cases where it could be ascertained, 12 cases led to mental health problems to victims (some leading to attempts to suicide). A few examples exemplify the state of the victims:

- Victim’s condition after being forced into group sex by seniors, Visva Bharti, Santiniketan, Jul 2006.  
*By the time she was released, the girl was in a state of physical and mental trauma. Later she was hospitalised for her treatment and under unconsciousness she kept saying, "I'm not a thief, I'm not a fallen girl," said the victim's local guardian, Amita Hazra. (Quoting Print Media)*
- Condition of Raja, S. Ashok Technological Institute, 26-Aug-2005.  
*Driven to near insanity, he now spends most of his time in the isolation ward of a local hospital. Raja shudders while recounting his first term in college. He had to suffer hundreds of slaps and public abuse by senior students for almost six months. Requests to be pardoned only heightened his woes and he instead of disclosing his torture, endured it silently till he lost his sanity. His dreams of earning an engineering degree has been replaced by an acute desire for vengeance. "I will not let them get away with it," he keeps on repeating every time images of two senior students flash through his mind. When not in hospital, Raja is confined round-the-clock in a small room of his Rohtas Nagar house. He is undergoing extensive psychological treatment (Quoting Print Media)*

These examples clearly show how traumatic the experience of ragging could be for the fresher. Even though some freshers may not be driven to a psychologically unstable state



immediately, the emotional scars of physical and sexual ragging are bound to affect the mental stability of the victim.

An astonishing outcome of ragging is the violence and indiscipline it causes in the college apart from its affect on the fresher. Atleast 10 cases of ragging caused other problems in college which included violent clashes, violence with teachers and journalists, strikes, vandalism and breakage and involvement of unions and local parties. *Again, this turns the oversimplifying arguments, with ragging being an ice-breaker for the fresher, on its head.*

A study into the various outcomes of ragging clearly show that it is a menace to the society. 11 deaths and an additional 23 cases of injured students is extremely disturbing. We also see that 5 victims fled from college due to ragging, which is extremely sad and a challenge to a merit based system of admission. Cases of mental health problems are just representative and indicates long term and subtle mental instabilities a victim may experience in life. Finally, the violence and indiscipline ragging creates in the college inhibits the efficient delivery of education in colleges, which is their main purpose. *These numbers show that claiming ragging as harmless fun is totally baseless and its oversimplification as an ice-breaker is problematic and immature.*

#### 4.4 Place of Ragging

The popular belief is that ragging is most widely spread in medical and engineering colleges. Out of 64 cases, we were able to ascertain the nature of college for 51 cases. Their distribution is presented in Table 3.

Total colleges identified	51	
MEDICAL	9	17.6%
ENGINEERING	18	35.3%
POLYTECHNIQUES	5	9.8%
Others, inc. Nursing, Business, Pharma, Sciences, Arts, Commerce Architecture	19	37.3%

Table 3: Kinds of colleges

Clearly the highest number of ragging cases are reported from Engineering colleges (35.3%). Though the medical colleges also form a substantial percent, one observes that a huge percentage (37.3%) of ragging cases are reported from colleges running B.Sc., B.A., B.B.A, vocational courses. This debunks the popular myth about the reason why seniors rag is linked with the tight schedule and stress of studies in professional courses. One cannot be sure how representative these statistics are of the proportion of actual occurrences of ragging incidents. One can argue that ragging cases have become a



tradition in medical colleges and thus do not exposed to the media. Only further study through surveys or more evidence could substantiate or negate this theory.

Though the distribution of ragging cases among different courses is not completely clear, the verdict is loud and clear regarding the place of ragging in colleges. A whopping 84% cases of ragging were conducted in hostels (or out-of-campus housing) versus a small 16% which happened on campus or other places off-campus. Out of the 44 cases where the place of ragging could be ascertained, 37 were done in hostels, while 7 were on-campus. This shows a big problem with the current discourse in the media, which floods pages with photos of ragging on campuses at the beginning of every academic year. These photos are not representative of the real ‘place of action’ of ragging, where it takes form of human-right abuse. These pictures misguide the public to a ‘harmless fun’ view of ragging causing the *problem of denial*.

#### **4.5 Other Considerations**

- *Involvement of girls:* 7 out of 46
- *Money-exhortation:* 2 cases
- *Non-consensual alcohol consumption:* 2 cases
- *Casteist colors in ragging:* 1 case



## 5. Social Perceptions: Debunking Prevalent Myths

As discussed earlier, the most important problem encountered while trying to build a consensus against ragging is the social denial that accompanies any mention of the ill effects of ragging. The level of ignorance among the general public about its existence, effects and presence of a framework to deal with it is startling, to say the least.

We mention some of them here and also provide real explanations.

- **Ragging is harmless fun**  
Most people think ragging is mild involving verbal interaction or having freshers do funny acts for a laugh. A darker side of ragging is widely prevalent in hostels and in outlying colleges. Here the practice of ragging revolves around cases of emotional harassment, sexual and physical abuse. Most of the cases are undocumented, and even if publicised are denied by colleges for fear of reprisals or loss of public image.
- **Ragging doesn't mean more than cleaning the senior's room or removing your shirt**  
Ragging incidents have included stripping of all clothes, public sexual acts to the extent of sexual intercourse & sodomy. Ragging takes its worst form when freshers are mercilessly beaten, asked to take drugs, made to work 24x7 and forced in rules such as not removing shoes for months.
- **Severe Ragging is not prevalent anymore**  
Severe ragging is widely prevalent in most of the colleges which have hostels, be it the smaller cities or the metropolitans. Nothing speaks louder than 25 cases of suicide due to ragging in the last seven years. After the Supreme Court Judgment, colleges have just geared up to keep ragging incidents under the cover. The problem is not solved yet, it is just hidden.
- **Ragging helps in breaking the ice between the seniors and freshers. It helps in their interaction and developing friendship between them.**  
Ragging is an archaic method of interaction with several harmful effects. Today with advancements in psychological science, there are many other healthy ways of interaction which are more effective and without any human rights abuse.
- **Ragging generates a feeling of unity and oneness.**  
Ragging divides the students on the lines of caste, region, class etc. It sets up a mob mentality among the students.
- **Ragging makes the fresher bold**  
Let us consider, what is boldness. Boldness is actually taking a stand for ones principles and truth, even when the person knows that he could lose something for taking this stand or it can become dangerous for him. Acceptance of wrong done



to you and not breaking-down is not boldness. It is revolting against the wrong done to you and not breaking down! Ragging does not make one bold, it teaches us how to be exploited and mutely, non-resistively accept it.

To flip the argument, let us now consider ragging where a person is asked to do something stupid in public, but this time the ragging act has a sexual/physical/unethical attributes. This could be hurling nasty/sexual abuses to someone, holding your private parts in public, making an indecent proposal to a girl, stripping oneself, etc. Yes, indeed this makes one courageous! But, is it the courage to do the wrong? Ragging tends to instill the courage in an individual that he shouldn't be afraid to do something which is socially unacceptable and wrong, since the consequences won't be much! One can appreciate that this boldness is actually '*gunda-gardi*'. This is the courage which all unsocial elements like eve-teasers, bullies and even murderers possess. The courage is not derived from the truth of one's stand, but the non-existence of dire consequences. It is once again a perverted boldness/courage.

Thus, we strongly object to this kind of ragging not only due to its unprincipled and unethical nature, but because it instills the worst kind of courage into a person. [One is tempted to compare it with the courage of the suicide bombers!] Wrong-doers are persons who lose sensitivity towards the self-respect of the other person and who are not afraid to do the wrong. This ragging indeed moulds freshers in this way, as is proved when the freshers become perpetrators in the second year!

- **No one can rag me, if I don't allow it**

A disorganised set of freshers face a united front of seniors who ask them to do the most unthinkable things on the name of ragging. A NO from the fresher means public humiliation, beating and infliction of worst torture. Singling out a protesting student is a regular feature of the game of ragging. Complaints may mean facing hostile authorities, threat from the whole senior batch leaving no option for the fresher but to leave the campus and ruin his career. The options for the perpetrated fresher are few, though there are always exceptions, who prove it otherwise. It is rightly said, "Exception Proves the Rule".

- **Colleges are serious about preventing ragging**

In many violent cases, colleges have actually denied the incident, or worse, indicated that the fresher had initiated the altercation. The college authority prefers to deny ragging incident for face-saving at the cost of the fresher's trauma. In stray cases, where action has been taken against the seniors, public sympathy towards the perpetrator has made justice difficult. Many colleges now try their best to keep the incident under the cover to save themselves from embarrassment and the reputation of the college. The attempts of colleges fall way short of the basic expectations in dealing with ragging incidents.





- **Why is the practice so difficult to change or police?**  
The problem is endemic and very difficult to police. The worst cases occur in hostels, behind closed doors and late at night. Fear of reprisal, mass intimidation and shame or embarrassment at the incident makes freshers reluctant to approach authorities. The authorities anyway turn a blind eye to the issue due to fear of student mobs and loss of reputation. The problem maintains its continuity, when the victim becomes the perpetrator in the very next year.
- **In which colleges is ragging more prevalent?**  
Ragging is widespread in colleges where students stay in hostels. In hostels, the fresher is totally at the mercy of the seniors with no support from family and friends. The problem magnifies at engineering and medical colleges, where students believe that they are the cream of the society and it is their right to do socially unacceptable practices on the name of ragging.
- **Are there any laws against ragging?**  
The Supreme Court in its verdict, in response to a PIL filed by Vishwa Jagriti Mission in August 2001, had put a ban on ragging. Many states have also passed laws against ragging. But unfortunately, college authorities are not willing to accept their role and responsibility in this.
- **What is society's role in stopping ragging?**  
Indian society needs to wake up and realize these events are happening, today, in the 21 st century. The biggest role of society today is ACCEPTANCE – that inhuman ragging exists, it must be stopped and alternatives explored for the Indian Educational system. There are better and positive ways to promote interaction with seniors than ridicule, humiliation and abuse.





## 6. Psychological Perspectives: The Viciously Circular Tradition

Ragging has always been considered a phenomenon of vicious circle. It is a phenomenon which if started in any educational institutional, may carry its legacy forever. It is a concept which passes from one batch to the next, making it an unending chain. But what are the factors which ensure this legacy? What are the components of this chain? How & where does it actually get its strength from? These are some of the questions which are perhaps not answered yet.

CURE's research suggests that there hasn't been much of a psychological study done to understand ragging, which is one of the most complex behaviour of human beings. It is perhaps the only phenomenon in which the victim himself becomes the perpetrator in a short span of just one year. What puzzles the most is the fact that the victim starts practicing worst sorts of human rights abuse of the modern civil society, which he himself endured only a few months ago.

In our seven years of experience with ragging, we were always very fascinated to understand this particular phenomenon. Though for a long time we did not get any answer but we always had a belief that ragging is no doubt a psychological aberration. It was this intense interest which always propelled us to go deeper and deeper and understand this vicious circle.

Ragging is more of a psychological problem than anything else. The whole concept of it is based on two major superstitious beliefs about ragging i.e. first that it has a positive effect on the personality of the fresher and secondly that it helps in the interaction between the seniors and freshers. The seniors make every effort to ensure that these beliefs are well passed on to their juniors.

It is normally seen that when fresher enters the college then initially he is too horrified with the ragging practice. During the initial days of ragging, even a minor abusive word hurled on him or a small act of physical or sexual violence with him is unbearable. He makes every possible effort to save himself from this unjustified torture. The option of complaining this to the authority is mostly ruled out by him due to the already set in insensitivity among the college authorities towards this traditional concept of ragging. Secondly the newly admitted fresher lack confidence in complaining this to the college administration and rather see it as a possibility of a backlash by his seniors.

Most of the freshers choose to rather run away home and see it as the most viable option to temporarily avoid ragging. When they return back they face the same ordeal again. The initial ragging days are some of the most traumatic days in anyone's life. Since getting



admission in professional colleges in India is too difficult therefore the freshers decide to compromise with the situations and search for support among the fellow sufferers i.e. batch mates. It is commonly seen that most often the freshers who drop out of college or commit suicide are the ones who are singled out from their batch or are ragged most severely. It is also observed that sometimes one or two freshers who are ragged severely or are singled out by their seniors are ostracized by their batch mates too and this leads to severe depression among the fresher who then decides to harm himself. It is noted that most of the cases which are reported are the ones in which the victim were singled out.

Gradually as the freshers face ragging, their sensitivity to abusive words, physical and sexual violence starts decreasing day by day. The rate at which this sensitivity decreases varies from fresher to fresher. Many a times after severe ragging, seniors offer cold-drink or samosas to eventually reconcile with the fresher. After which freshers are explained that ragging is good for them as it would make them smart and familiar with the seniors. Later the senior promises to help the fresher with notes and books. Therefore the session of familiarization which started with physical, sexual and verbal torture ends up happily.

Likewise the fresher has to go through the same sessions of torture until he becomes familiar with each and every senior of the college, following more or less similar method of familiarization. Freshers are told that if they don't go through ragging they will not only remain shy but never know their seniors and would thus remain isolated in college. Gradually as the fresher goes through repeated tortures and is inculcated with the myths of ragging, he not only becomes insensitive to it but starts believing in the concept of ragging. It is this which ensures the phenomenon of ragging to pass on from batch after batch.

Ragging has also been associated with machoism. Seniors, who are able to sexually or physically rag their junior, see it as an act of courage. It is because of this that many seniors who are reluctant to rag their juniors, finally succumb to peer-pressure. It is often found that not all the seniors are in favor of sever ragging but are indirectly forced to rag in order to stay in their group of friends else they are bullied by their batch mates.

It is often found that many a times ragging start as a healthy introduction exercise but due to sudden rush of adrenaline in teenage that gradually the seniors get carried away in a large group of friends and ragging turns ugly.

The superstitious beliefs about ragging get their strength both from the society and the college administration. In the society either people have already gone through ragging and therefore later justify it or else they see it as a mild practice of singing and dancing. The college administration sees it as a traditional practice being followed for a long time and thus becomes insensitive to it. These two factors play an important role in indirectly encouraging the students to practice ragging.



## 7. Solution Approaches: Core Issues

In this section, we try to understand reasons behind the major problems outlined in the previous sections.

- **Denial of ragging: Ragging is not recognized as a social evil by the society.**
  - Denial since normal people have indulged in it as seniors and want to now explain their conduct morally.
  - Colleges deny its existence in campus for good reputation and also because they are unable to control it.
  - Parents (of freshmen) don't know the full extent of ragging and henceforth think it is some little teasing for personality enhancement.
  - Parents also deny it since when they get to know about the extent of ragging, they are unable to do anything about it.
  - General people see ragging in light of simple teasing, dancing, etc. on campus captured by media and doesn't know its real extent as in hostels. They think these cases are corner cases and don't think they are widespread.
  - Macho image is associated with ragging and criticizing it is considered a weakness among youth.
- **No clear guidelines on how to deal with ragging seniors, in case of complaint and substantial evidence.**
  - There are multiple parties involved including college authorities, police, parents, students and student bodies. The sympathy of the parents, the society and student bodies lie more with the seniors than the ragging victims. The college has vested interests to deny the incident to save reputation. The role of police is unclear and adhoc. There is a possibility of strikes and hooliganism in support of ragging perpetrators.
  - The nature of incidents in ragging comprise of physical injury, sexual abuse and subjugation. All these comprise of criminal offence according to the judicial system of India. The ragging seniors are above 18 years of age and cannot be considered juvenile. The Supreme Court judgment of 1998 notes, "Some of the States have acted by enacting legislations and making ragging as defined therein a cognizable and punishable offence. However, we feel ragging cannot be cured merely by making it a cognizable criminal offence." It is clear by CURE's collected statistics that the college authorities have been unable to contain ragging and function according to the Supreme Court guidelines.
- **Complete helplessness of freshmen**



- Away from family in hostel with a worrisome family at home, which cannot be worried more.
- Shame and shyness to share experience with family. Indian societal nature doesn't allow easy talk between parents and children about sex related issues and ragging takes sex colors most often.
- At complete mercy of seniors in a new environment. Retaliation (complaints, information to parents) may mean dire consequences and complete ostracism to possibility of being forced to leave college.
- Peer-pressure of seniors and batchmates to obey seniors to become a part of the cult.
- Inaccessibility, indifference and inaction of college authorities.
- **Worst practices have become part of ragging as documented.**
  - The best analogy to these practices are with those practiced in the camps of Abu-Gharib.
  - Complete emotional subjugation by humiliation and stripping right to basic human tendencies as that of smiling, laughing, talking, clothing by choice, etc. in a hostile environment.
  - Subjecting to physical injury through beating, hitting by people and objects.
  - Forced sexual acts in public including stripping in front of same or opposite sex, passing urine in public, forced public masturbation, forced sexual activity including unnatural sex with person(s) of opposite or same sex.
  - Forceful initiation into cigarette, alcohol and drugs.
- **Disinterest and fear in college authorities to get involved in the problem of ragging.**
- **Casteist and regional colors of ragging.**
- **Zero research on the issue of ragging.**
  - Only book published on ragging was in the 1960's and as per the best knowledge of CURE, no paper on ragging has been published in any journal. Only analysis and research reports published in 2005-06 are by CURE.



## 8. Conclusion

It is clear that ragging is a criminal problem which has psychological roots and a social ignorance around it. It is somewhat like dowry in its characteristics *i.e.* the magnitude of the problem is so humongous that a top-down law enforcement approach may not be adequate to solve it.

Unfortunately, ragging does not have a quick-fix solution. Passing a law or even implementing it will not solve the problem. We must understand that unless the society condemns it, ragging cannot be eliminated. We require a focussed and concentrated effort to educate the masses.



## 9. Appendix: Reported Ragging Cases

This section lists down cases reported in the media since 1998.

- *These cases have been taken from online archives of leading newspapers*
- *CURE is not responsible for the authenticity of these incidents*
- *The dates are those of the news reports and may not be the same as that of the incident*

SI No.	Year & Date	College	Brief Description of the Incident
1	24-Jul-98	School of Architecture, Ahmedabad	Opposition staged a walkout of the Legislative Assembly protesting against the recent incidents of ragging in the college
2	5-Aug-1998	The Sophia College, Mumbai	Indu Anto (16), an eleventh standard arts student residing in the Sophia College hostel on Peddar Road, jumped to her death from the terrace of the two-storeyed building.
3	21-Aug-1998	Government Polytechnic College, Kangra	3 first year students were assaulted by their seniors in the name of ragging.
4	5-Sep-1998	D.Y. Patil College of Engineering, Pune	A 17 year old boy was stripped and sexually abused.
5	9-Oct-1998	Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Patiala	Terrorised by ragging and the threat of another dose the next day led to the fracturing of both the legs of Ajaypal after he fell down from his room's roof following a bout of giddiness.
6	16-Oct-1998	GMC, Patiala	Things turned violent when a group of pharmacy students tried to rag a third year MBBS student taking him to be a fresher. Humiliated, the latter returned with his friends, leading to a group clash. 2 injured.



7	7-Nov-1998	Institute of Nursing, Mangalore	Five juniors were stripped and sexually harrassed and asked to shave off body hair. Later the seniors used cigarette butts to burn visible traces of hair. A junior who disobeyed was made to run around with a rope tied to his genitals.
8	1-Dec-1998	Sri Venkateshwara Polytechnic Tirupati	Unable to bear the ragging and after being forced to have unnatural sex with fellow students, Krishna Naik tried committing suicide by jumping before a train. He was saved by a RPF personnel. His arm is severed.
9	24-Aug-1999	Punjab University	Police arrests 3 seniors on charges of ragging.
10	31-Aug-1999	Punjab University	2 students involved in beating and harassing 11 juniors have been suspended.
11	11-Oct-1999	Institute of Engineering and Technology, Lucknow	Amit left the college after facing a MONTH long ordeal of ragging where among other things he had to do 100 sit ups, bow in front of a senior etc. He was also beaten up severely one day after which he fainted.
12	15-Oct-1999	Punjab Engineering College, Chandigarh	Gaurav Sachdeva, third year, suspended for ragging juniors.
13	3-Nov-1999	PEC, Chandigarh	PEC has rusticated one student and fined others who had indulged in ragging 4 juniors both mentally and physically
14	1-Dec-1999	Cochin University	2 students have been suspended for ragging a junior student.
15	6-Jan-2000	Ayurvedic College, Parpola	SFI expresses concern over the "inhuman" ragging of students.
16	23-Jan-2000	Ravenshaw College, Cuttack	The victim, daughter of CPM leader, remained senseless for over two hours after being ragged by senior girls but was neither hospitalised nor any complained lodged with the police.



17	1-Feb-2000	Ravenshaw College, Cuttack	3 students have been expelled and four others punished for their involvement in ragging.
18	8-Aug-2000	Hotel management, Kerala	9 seniors arrested on charges of ragging.
19	16-Aug-2000	Sri Krishna Arts and Science College, Keezhambi( near Kancheepuram)	Deepa (18), a first year student of microbiology committed suicide by self-immolation. In her dying declaration, Deepa named three seniors (one girl), as forcing her to sing lewd songs. When she sulked and protested, the seniors asked her to dance nude.
20	26-Aug-2000	Guru Gobind Singh Medical College, Amritsar	Principal constitutes a committee of five doctors to probe into the ragging charges.
21	3-Sep-2000	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi	Honhar Singh Meena, a first year MBBS student was severely ragged in the undergraduate students hostel. He was beaten up, forced to drink alcohol and harrassed by the seniors.
22	16-Sep-2000	Indira gandhi Medical College, Shimla	Students seek the intervention of the state's CM for strict enforcement of anti-ragging law
23	15-Dec-2000	Hyderabad	T. Sarita who had consumed poison after she was ragged, died in the hospital.
24	27-Jan-2001	Karnataka medical college, Bijapur( Karnataka)	A girl and a boy were made to strip by senior students and locked up in one room for three days without food or water when they refused to have sex.
25	4-Apr-2001	AM Sheikh Homeopathy Medical College, Mumbai	Nilesh Dubey, first year, was stabbed by his 3 seniors SEVEN times over a period of 3 months.
26	24-Apr-2001	Engineering College, Vijaywada	Seniors kidnapped and assaulted a fresher.
27	25-Apr-2001	Medical College, Kangra	The management issued notices to senior students for vacating their hostel on charges of ragging.





28	1-May-2001	Medical College run by SGPC	Fine levied on minister's son for ragging second year students.
29	2-May-2001	Medical college in Kangra district, Himachal	12 freshers were ragged & assaulted allegedly.
30	11-May-2001	Dr. Rajendra Prasad Medical College, Dharamsala	Revoking the rustriation of 33 students for their involvement in ragging, the authorities said that their behaviour would be on probation for a year.
31	25-May-2001	Koneru Lakshmaiah College of Engineering, Vijaywada	Rajeev Krishna was kidnapped by 6 senior students. He was saved by some mutta workers who saw the group assaulting Rajeev and came to his rescue.
32	20-Jul-2001	Ramjas College, DU, Delhi	In a teacherless class when the seniors asked a boy to propose to a girl, he refused saying it was against his values resulting in a scuff between the boy and the seniors.
33	26-Jul-2001	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	5 students have been fined and expelled from the hostel after being found guilty of ragging.
34	4-Aug-2001	A hotel management institute, GOA	Shailender Agarwal was ragged by his seniors, 4 boys and 2 girls. He left the institute.
35	9-Aug-2001	IHMCT, Panaji	Victim leaves institute. 8 students arrested and later released on bail.
36	9-Aug-2001	Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Madurai	The principal lodged a complaint of ragging with the police.
37	15-Aug-2001	Parmar University	3 students expelled over a ragging incident.
38	23-Aug-2001	Government Medical College, Madurai	A written complaint was filed by a first year after he was brutally ragged by some final year students.



39	28-Aug-2001	College of Architecture, Chandigarh	Students protest against defamatory reports given by a first year student from the North East who left the college without informing anyone.
40	29-Aug-2001	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana	The PAU has taken action against 15 students involved in various ragging incidents.
41	30-Aug-2001	Women's Polytechnic College, Raipur	Sujata Tiwari had been forced to leave the city just three days after she enrolled for a computer science course. Her seniors in the hostel allegedly stripped and forced her to pose upside down for more than two hours, resulting in severe bleeding from her nose.
42	30-Aug-2001	Haryana Agricultural University Hisar	Dress code introduced for first year by the seniors so as to easily spot them, defiance of which leads to strict punishment.
43	31-Aug-2001	CEMK, Midnapore	Somnath's seniors told him to consume 3 boiled potatoes in one go. When he failed to do so, he was pinned down by some while others forced the potatoes into his mouth. Later they took him to the pond and forced him to be in water for an hour. That night another group of students came and bet him up. the same ordeal was repeated the next day and didnt stop till he reported a high fever.
44	13-Sep-2001	Veterinary Sciences, HAU, Hisar	3 students suspended on charges of ragging.
45	20-Sep-2001	Sainik School, Lucknow	35 class VIIIth students fled from the school and went to their homes. The parents said that this was due to the fact that the children were being brutally ragged and harassed. The children also named 4 seniors.
46	22-Sep-2001	Government Polytechnic College,	3 senior students entered the hostel room of juniors in a drunken state and force them to strip. While one of the victims



		Hisar	left the hostel, the others complained to the warden who banned the entry of the seniors.
47	1-Oct-2001	Kurukshetra University, Hisar	Tormented and tortured by her seniors in the name of ragging, Anuja has left the hostel and returned to her home.
48	2-Oct-2001	Baroda Medical College, Vadodara	The freshers were made to do vulgar acts by the seniors. The latter fled when the police was called in.
49	6-Oct-2001	Rajah Muthiah Medical College, Chennai	Navarasu was allegedly murdered by David in a ragging incident in 1996.
50	27-Oct-2001	Trivandrum	Neeraj Gupta was forced to strip behind the bushes and subjected to sexual abuse for nearly 2 hours after which he was hospitalised.
51	22-Nov-2001	Gandhi Medical College, Hyderabad	According to police sources, 5 senior students forced the 1st year girls to undress at the Necklace Road and blow kisses to them while the boys were asked for oral sex.
52	23-Nov-2001	Osmania University, Hyderabad	Vamsi Krishna, first year, was found crying in the campus after the seniors tried to sexually abuse him.
53	5-Dec-2001	Agricultural College, Mahanandi(AP)	some senior students had organised a get-together in the hostel. Some students, in an inebriated condition, forced Govardhan to strip and perform dirty acts, he said, adding that he was even sodomised. He later committed suicide
54	23-Dec-2001	Sir CRR Reddy Engineering College, Eluru	A case of ragging in which a second year Dalit student was allegedly ragged took a nasty turn when it led to a caste fight between the upper and the lower caste students.
55	24-Dec-2001	Kolkata, WB	Political Parties clash over issue of ragging.



56	7-Jan-2002	Government Polytechnic College, Vijaywada	6 second year students used to harass a first year by asking him to fetch drinking water and arrange bathing water.
57	20-Apr-2002	Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Madikeri	Jayakrishna of std. VIII was punched and beaten up with bamboo sticks by 9 second year students. He has suffered grievous injuries and all this because of his denial to wash clothes for them.
58	25-May-2002	EVR College, Chennai	When Azhagarsamy intervened in a ragging incident on behalf of student relative Ramesh and met fellow seniors, he got into an altercation with them. The latter repeatedly stabbed Azhagarsamy.
59	1-Jul-2002	Ramjas College, DU, Delhi	When Arun Tyagi prevented other students from ragging freshers, he was beaten up with hockey sticks.
60	20-Jul-2002 (incident occurred in 2000)	MLN Medical College, Allahabad	When Harsh Agrawal asked about a friend who happened to be a senior, little did he know that he had 'violated a cardinal rule'. He was forced to strip and was tortured for over 2 hours. He had had enough when the seniors tried to burn his private parts. He told his parents who in turn apprised the principal.
61	26-Jul-2002	ITS, Lucknow	Ex-student, Vishal Singh along with 5 associated barged into the institute and began harassing the girls in the name of ragging. When the teachers intervened, he began threatening and abusing the teachers.
62	31-Jul-2002	Palani Andavar College for Men, Palani	Three students were dismissed on charges of ragging. Students boycotted classes protesting the failure to contain ragging.



63	1-Aug-2002	G. B. Pant Engineering College, Uttaranchal	Atleast 100 freshers left the college hostel for fear of being assaulted by the seniors.
64	10-Aug-2002	Kurukshetra University, Karnal	Students protest against ragging.
65	28-Aug-2002	Patiala	Sikh boy falsely accuses a second year of forcing to get the former's hair cut to escape parents' wrath.
66	29-Aug-2002	Katwa College, WB	Soumen santra was woken up in the night and made to climb the stairs up and down without a break with beedis and cigarette all over him
67	1-Sep-2002	IET Lucknow	Anup Kapoor, a 19-year-old first year engineering student committed suicide by hanging himself from a ceiling fan at his house. He had returned home from his institute in Lucknow following sexual harassment and mental torture by his seniors.
68	16-Sep-2002	GITAM Engineering College, Visakhapatnam	7 students stripped naked a first year and pushed him around. He was later taken to a room where he was shown some blue films and asked to copy the acts. When he resisted, he was burnt with cigarette butts and smoke blown into his nose and eyes.
69	22-Sep-2002	Institute of Management, Ghaziabad	Mohd. Arif, guilty of reporting a ragging incident to the authorities had to pay the price for it by giving up his life after the seniors mercilessly bet him for the same.
70	7-Oct-2002	Durgapur Regional Engineering College	3 students were suspended for 6 months after reports came in from juniors that they had been ragged.
71	29-Nov-2002	Santosh Medical College, Ghaziabad	8 students were arrested for allegedly ragging a first year student.



72	6-Feb-2003	Rashtriya Ayurvedic Mahavidyalaya	When peon SK Shukla forced the juniors to come out of their respective rooms for mass ragging, Awdhesh, a second
		Lucknow	year student intervened. Shukla and the seniors accompanying him left only to return later in the night with sticks and
			rods, leaving Awdhesh injured.
73	19-Feb-2003	Nursing College, Trivandrum	4 girls have dropped out of the college on grounds of being ragged by seniors and harassed by college officials. In a
			petition to The President of India, they have described what all they were asked/made to do.
74	25-Feb-2003	Bhubaneshwar College	Saptarishi, fresher, was made to polish shoes, play masseurs and regularly beaten up. The situation became worse
			when he moved in with 4 freshers to a private mess. There after forcing him to admit that he was a thief and asking
			him to sign a confession, his 'friends' also forced him to sign a blank cheque and withdrew Rs. 2900/- from his
			account. His confession was circulated in the class and he was again beaten up. He tried committing suicide.
75	17-Mar-2003	Government Medical College,	A second year student hanged himself after he was threatened by seniors. In the suicide note found, he has named
		Anantapur, Hyderabad	6 seniors as responsible for his death.
76	12-Apr-2003	Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya,	Sanjay, class Xth, was found hanging inside a class room. In February, sanjay and his batchmates had gone to meet
		Ettiah	the DM to protest against the ragging prevalent.



77	23-Jul-2003	ILS, Pune	Customary friendly introduction session blown out of proportion. Students protest against the expulsion.
78	1-Aug-2003	Ajmer Polytechnic	A second year student was arrested on charges of ragging. He was later released on bail.
79	1-Aug-2003	Army Institute of Technology, Pune	Gaurav Malhotra had to return to his parents in Chandigarh after he was sexually harassed by his seniors.
80	1-Aug-2003	Pune	Victims said that a group of 6-8 seniors ragged them. To top it, the principal told them not to publicise the incident.
81	7-Aug-2003	Jalpaiguri Medical College, Kolkata, WB	When a first year tried to escape the room where the seniors were ragging, his throat and whole body was slashed with knives, fingers stamped on and face punched at. He has been hospitalised.
82	7-Aug-2003	Hindu College, DU, Delhi	Vinayak Natarajan, first year, was stripped and ragged.
83	10-Aug-2003	CSMMU, Lucknow	Panic struck the first year girls hostel when they were asked to come to the seniors with a bottle of glucose to attend a birthday party after midnite. The freshers were made to sit in a cock-like position as it was a 'physical exercise' The girls later called their parents who made anonymous calls to the district administrative officials. The latter conducted surprise inspections of hostels.
84	17-Aug-2003	IIT-D, Delhi	Topper Raj Purohit was harassed by seniors.
85	20-Aug-2003	Shaheed Captain Vikram Batra Government Degree College Dharamsala	When a group of students objected ragging, it led to a verbal duel which turned violent when the accused stabbed those who were objecting.



86	21-Aug-2003	Punjab University	Authorities rusticated a student and punished five others for ragging juniors in two cases last month.
87	26-Aug-2003	SV University College, Tirupati	15 inmates of the College hostel for men have been asked to vacate the hostel on the charges of ragging.
88	29-Aug-2003	KNMIET, Ghaziabad	The police resorted to lathi charge after a dozen freshers were injured by the rioting seniors.
89	29-Aug-2003	RKGIT, Ghaziabad	The police were called in after 70 seniors who were suspended for ragging and vandalism, resisted being sent home
90	29-Aug-2003	BIST, Bhopal	Ragging led to the loss of both arms and a leg of a fresher
91	31-Aug-2003	Punjab University	6 juniors roaming were asked to reach the campus. They were then taken to an open space and ragged till about 2:30 in the morning. In the afternoon they were asked to bring paranthas.
92	1-Sep-2003	Chaudhary Charan Singh University	A minor tiff over a ragging incident turned into a caste-based battlefield.
93	1-Sep-2003	BITS, Ranchi	Parmeshwar, a student committed suicide by hanging himself to the ceiling fan. Though it is not confirmed, students claim that Parmeshwar was depressed due to ragging.
94	1-Sep-2003	Madan Mohan Engineering College, Gorakhpur	A first year B. Tech student, Sushil Kumar Pandey committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling fan following severe ragging.
95	1-Sep-2003	Topiwala Nair Medical College & Hospital, Mumbai	Pranali Dhanvijay commits suicide. Her uncle said that, "just five days after she joined the course, she called up from Mumbai and told her mother that her seniors had made her life miserable." He feels that ragging is the cause for the death.





96	2-Sep-2003	BMC, Ahmedabad	Many freshers over the past 2 years have been leaving the college after being ragged by their seniors. Only last year a few seniors were caught red-handed and their residency terminated for 6 months.
97	4-Sep-2003	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	4 senior students caught ragging have been told to vacate the boys hostel. A fine of Rs. 5000 has also been imposed.
98	4-Sep-2003	Chittaranjan National Medical College, Kolkata, WB	Seniors ragged some second and first years through the night, beating them up and forcing them to strip.
99	6-Sep-2003	Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, WB	A fresher who was brutally ragged by seniors could have been saved had the ISI followed the SC directive. They implemented it now.
100	20-Sep-2003	Haldia Institute of Technology, Haldia	9 students have been expelled and 7 fined after a ragging incident. All 18 have been told to leave the hostel.
10	24-Sep-2003	HAU, Hisar	Students protested against the suspension of 11 students for their alleged involvement in ragging.
102	1-Oct-2003	Sir Syed College, Kannur	8 students have been booked under the Prevention of Ragging Act for roughing up 2 girls.
103	10-Oct-2003	MVJ College of Engineering, Bangalore	Three students have been debarred from attending college and have been removed from the college hostel on charge of ragging a first year. The committee formed has been asked to submit a report at the earliest.
104	29-Oct-2003	Kolaghat Engineering College, WB	Second year student expelled and 4 others suspended on charge of manhandling juniors.



105	8-Nov-2003	Dhadka Polytechnic College, Asansol	Reuben Thoudam of Imphal, a first year student fled the college because he was beaten and forced to walk naked during his ragging.
106	11-Nov-2003	ILS, Pune	On 18 July, 10 seniors had told the juniors to come to the formers' room to ask the latter about their background. The college expelled the seniors on charge that they were harassing the juniors. The Mumbai HC upheld the decision
107	17-Dec-2003	Noor College of Engineering and Technology in Kammadanam and Shadnagar (Mahbubnagar DT.)	On December 17, three second year students and two outsiders, allegedly ragged three girls some distance away from the campus. Students passing by interfered and with the help of some locals, beat up the youngsters and handed them over to the probationary SI, Rama Devi, at the Shadnagar police station. The students belonged to the Noor College of Engineering and Technology in Kammadanam.
108	7-Jan-2004	Bilaspur Medical College, Bilaspur Chhattisgarh	A first year MBBS student, Lokesh Yadav committed suicide by hanging himself from a ceiling fan after being allegedly ragged by senior students.
109	5-Mar-2004	Government Medical College	Gagandeep Ghuman was injured because he had prevented his juniors from ragging freshers.
110	31-Mar-2004	Lucknow	The MFA 2nd years called the BFA freshers and asked them to strip and perform obscene acts with each other. One victim went and reported to his elder brother, Ganesh, in MFA 1st year, who reported the matter to the authority. The accused thrashed Ganesh.
111	14-Apr-2004	Calcutta University	Niladri Das was mentally tortured for four nights on the trot and was even subjected to regular beatings.



112	1-Jun-2004	XLRI, Jamshedpur	Things turned nasty in XLRI when some senior boys tried to misbehave with the junior girls. A sense of resentment and terror had gripped the campus. The students were also angry at the indifferent attitude of the authorities.
113	1-Jul-2004	BIT	A young boy fearing ragging and in order to escape it, hid under a goods train. The train suddenly started moving resulting in the loss of both his arms and a leg.
114	1-Jul-2004	Rajkiya Gobind Ballabh Pant Polytechnic	3 students were critically injured when their seniors brutally assaulted them. The injured had dared to oppose ragging in the college. All the 3 have been hospitalised.
115	4-Jul-2004	Ayurvedic Medical College, Pune	5 people involved in a ragging incident in the year 2002 have been sentenced to 6 months imprisonment.
116	18-Jul-2004	International School of Business and Media	Two students have been expelled for misconduct after an inquiry into a ragging incident.
117	19-Jul-2004	Sri Dhanwantry Ayurvedic College, Chandigarh	Students protested against the suspension of two senior students for their involvement in ragging. The principal suspended them after they were caught red-handed
118	29-Jul-2004	Chandigarh	A girl had been ragged by boys and not being able to stomach the upfront and the want of getting back at the boys, guards of MLA Ashok Sharma came and bet them up.
119	1-Aug-2004	Guru Nanak Dev College	Senior students fined for ragging juniors by the Principal.
120	6-Aug-2004	NIFT, Mohali	7 senior girls were suspended after the authorities received a complaint of ragging from a first year.
121	10-Aug-2004	Law college, Jalandhar	4 first year girls were subjected to ragging by their seniors.



122	12-Aug-2004	Hotel management College,  Mangalore	Parents of Smit Fernandes have removed him from the college and decided to discontinue his studies and of Manav Singh, of whom they were guardians, because both of them were ragged. Smit's father said that the college was not ready to solve the issue amicably. He has also lodged a complaint with the police.
123	13-Aug-2004	KMC, DU, Delhi	2 students expelled from hostel on charges of ragging till the end of second term.
124	17-Aug-2004	MIT, Manipal	Ehsan Saba was beaten badly by the seniors and he was thrown into the sea to hush up the matter.
	27-Aug-2004	Delhi University, Delhi	2 suspended from Hansraj and 3 from KMC for ragging.
125	1-Sep-2004	Indreprastha College, Ghaziabad	Seniors and freshrs clashed in the college following an altercation over ragging.
126	10-Sep-2004	Indraprasth Engineering College,  Ghaziabad	Students protested against the principal as the latter had slapped a second year student for engaging in ragging.
127	12-Sep-2004	College of Textile Technology,  Baharampur	Mrinal Biswas suffered head injury as a result of ragging.
128	30-Sep-2004	NIT, Durgapur	Swadesh Sarkar has been arrested on grounds of repeatedly ragging Himangshu, first year.
129	9-Oct-2004	Hoogly Institute of Technology	Shayari Majumdar was forced to kiss a senior boy on the pretext of ragging. The accused, SFI members, also forced her to consume alcohol and smoke.
130	1-Nov-2004	Oriental College	The junior boys were slapped hard on the cheeks while the girls were asked to make propositions to the boys in a lewd manner.



131	1-Nov-2004	Mahakal Institute of Technology Ujjain	Some senior students made a first year strip and dance in group.
132	4-Nov-2004	Government Hotel Management and Catering Institute, Dehradun	19-year old student jumped off the third floor of the institute building after he was ragged. He has sustained injuries but is stable now.
133	14-Nov-2004	Engineering College, Anantapur	Ravi attempted suicide by consuming sleeping pills.
134	30-Nov-2004	Siliguri	Rehman, first year, was paraded naked and pricked by a live wire by his seniors.
135	19-Dec-2004	S K R Engineering College, Poonamalle	Mohan Karthik a first year engineering student committed suicide after he was humiliated by his seniors, who allegedly made him bath with his urine.
136	10-Jan-2005	J J School of Architecture, Mumbai	Punit Gupta, a first year student, filed a police complaint against a senior after he was beaten up and made to recite obscene sentences on two separate occasions.
137	29-Jan-2005	Navy Training Institute, Lonawla	The Navy launched an inquiry into an extreme case of ragging where the engineering cadets had multiple fractures in the legs.
138	1-Feb-2005	All Saints Technical Institute	Seniors ragged juniors just to prove how ineffective the curbs on ragging were.
139	21-Mar-2005	Timkur	8 students assaulted Rajiv Kumar, first year. The next day, 6 of Rajiv's classmates were beaten up with iron rods and sickles
140	30-Jun-2005	Guhawati Commerce College	Navneet was extorting between Rs 200 and Rs 400 from each fresher.
141	1-Jul-2005	Dhamtari	6 students have been arrested on charges of ragging the juniors.



142	2-Jul-2005	Hotel management of a private institute, Kalyani, Nadia district, West Bengal	According to the family members Kamlesh Sarkar (19) was a victim of ragging in the institute, he came home three months ago, but he was reluctant to return to the institute. Police said no complaints about ragging was lodged. However, an unnatural death case has been registered.
143	16-Jul-2005	Benaras Hindu University	Kaushlendra Pratap stood naked and passed vulgar comments. While the authorities dismissed it as a case of hereditary mental disorder, the relatives said it was a result of ragging.
144	20-Jul-05 & 21-Sep-05	King George's Medical University, Lucknow	MBBS student Ayushman Shukla of B-6 batch complained of being ragged while returning from his classes. He had suffered serious injuries after being beaten up by his seniors. On September 19, a student of the 2003-batch was caught sneaking into a juniors' hostel (Trans-Gomti hostel). He, along with, two others were trying to enter the hostel when the security guard at the hostel caught them. While two of them fled, Azad Singh was held.
145	21-Jul-2005	Engineering college in Raipur, Chattisgarh	Junior paraded naked.
146	25-Jul-2005	LD Arts College, Ahmedabad	Infighting between groups of student over ragging.
147	3-Aug-2005	PGIMS, Rohtak	3 students were suspended on charges of ragging.
148	5-Aug-2005	Ayurvedic and Unani Tibbia College Delhi	Abhishek Tiwari from Patna and Riyaz from Madhya Pradesh were asked to sing, dance and then strip in the hostel at night, they were asked to masturbate while their seniors allegedly took photographs with camera phones. Finally asked to parade naked to girls hostel (11 to 230).
149	6-Aug-2005	IIPS	Two seniors have been suspended on the suspicion of ragging juniors when a surprise visit by the anti-



			ragging
			cell resulted in the discovery of 9 juniors in their room.
150	19-Aug-2005	Telaiya Sainik School, Hazaribagh	Saurabh Kumar, class XII, was sent back home in the presence of police on the pretext of ragging Anand Kumar of class X.
151	24-Aug-2005	Jalpaiguri Polytechnique Institute, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal	Indranil Mukherjee severely ragged and returns home injured.
152	26-Aug-2005	Ashok Technological Institute (SATI)	Driven to near insanity, he now spends most of his time in the isolation ward of a local hospital. Raja shudders while recounting his first term in college. He had to suffer hundreds of slaps and public abuse by senior students for almost six months. Requests to be pardoned only heightened his woes and he instead of disclosing his torture, endured it silently till he lost his sanity. His dreams of earning an engineering degree has been replaced by an acute desire for vengeance. "I will not let them get away with it," he keeps on repeating every time images of two senior students flash through his mind. When not in hospital, Raja is confined round-the-clock in a small room of his Rohtas Nagar house. He is undergoing extensive psychological treatment.
153	27-Aug-2005	SSKM Hospital	The accused called freshers to his room and made them do menial work. Those who refused were "punished".



154	29-Aug-05	Ravenshaw Autonomous College, Cuttack, Orissa	<p>"Many of the freshers were spending sleepless nights due to continuous ragging. Even some were attending classes and staying away from the hostel and spending nights at the railway station to evade ragging and bullying by their seniors in the hostel", Anirudh Pradhan, was beaten up, subjected to humiliating situations continuously for nearly a week and driven to a state of shock and speechlessness that warranted treatment by a psychiatrist. The complaint said some third year students, often in a drunken state, continually harassed Pradhan with objectionable questions for around 10 days. Pradhan was beaten up when he protested. Pradhan was sent for treatment to a local hospital after his family came to know about his problems. After diagnosis, doctors found Pradhan completely dumb. However, he is recovering slowly, said doctors.</p>
155	31-Aug-2005	Dr Hraisingh Gaur University Sagar	<p>"They asked if I was a first year M tech student, when I said yes, they slapped me and kept saying that we only introduced ourselves in the department and not to them. The window was open and they pushed me out of it and after that I don't remember anything," said Alam. Alam was not the only one. Other students living on the same floor were also dragged out one by one and beaten up.</p>
156	6-Sep-2005	Patliputra Medical College, Dhanbad	<p>Aatish, second year, had slapped an attempt to murder charge on fourth year Aditya and fresher Arvind. Authorities claim the feud started over the issue of ragging in the hostel.</p>
157	9-Sep-2005	Siliguri Institute of Technology, WB	Ragging incident reported.
158	14-Sep-2005	Nizam College, Hyderabad	<p>Altercation between groups over girl's ragging. One group attacks and injures other group.</p>





159	26-Sep-2005	Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur	7 seniors have been rusticated for ragging the freshers, after being caught red-handed.
160	1-Oct-2005	Hoshangabad	A youth belonging to the SC community was severely thrashed by residents of the hostel. A FIR has been filed but the police have not been able to arrest the accused.
161	11-Oct-2005	Dr B. R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar	Amit Kumar commits suicide by jumping in front of train ("They are made naked and ordered to do bad things").
162	19-Oct-2005	Private university Campus, Dehradun (University of Petroleum and Energy Studies)	A group of nearly 25 senior students barged into the class room of first year students of the university and after bolting the room from inside, asked the juniors to strip in the presence of girl students whom they forced to remain seated, police said. When the juniors resisted, the seniors started beating them up and threatened them of dire consequences if they did not oblige. 5 student hospitalised
163	3-Nov-2005	Bapatla Engineering College, Ongole	K. Alexander consumed pesticide in his house. The father lodged a complaint with the police stating that it was due to ragging.
164	9-Nov-2005	Amritsar College of Engineering	Harkirat was shot at by his seniors for resisting ragging.
165	13-Nov-2005	KGMU, Lucknow	20 MBBS students were kidnapped by seniors and taken to a place near Tile Wali masjid. They were beaten up and asked to strip.
166	15-Nov-2005	Lucknow	Altercation between two groups over ragging. 6 students injured.
167	17-Nov-2005	Sankaracharya Sanskrit University, Kalady	Senior harassed a junior girl 'mentally' and threatened her not to reveal the incident to others. There was drastic change in her blood pressure and she had to seek medical aid immediately after the incident.



168	18-Nov-2005	Kallai AWH College	Abhilash Praburaj, 17, from Thrissur, was admitted to the Beach Hospital after he was beaten up by the seniors. He was a first-year BSc student of physiotherapy, Abhilash was allegedly beaten by his seniors during the Physiotherapy festival organised by the college at a hotel here on Wednesday.
169	22-Nov-2005	School of Medical Education, Kottayam	Rape of a first year BSc nursing student.
170	25-Nov-2005	Kakatiya University, Warangal	Senior girl students caught ragging their juniors in hostel by the college principal and the hostel warden.
171	5-Dec-2005	Biotechnology institute in Hyderabad	Student commits suicide due to ragging.
172	7-Dec-2005	Central Polytechnic, Vattiyorkavu, Thiruvantapuram	Nithin, who was partially deaf and a heart patient, was forced by the senior students to imitate certain pornographic postures. He was also beaten up by the senior students. Nithin was hospitalised following the incident.
173	9-Dec-2005	Andhra Pradesh Social Welfare Residential Junior College and School at Lakshminarasapuram in Anaparthi Mandal	Seniors beat up two juniors injuring one of them in the spine and fracturing the hand of another.
174	15-Dec-2005	Hyderabad	C. Abraham was found hanging at his residence. While the mother says that its due to ragging, the police on the basis of a suicide note found say that its due to his lack of interest in studies.
175	16-Dec-2005	CUSAT, Kochi	Parents complain that senior students had assaulted their son on several occasions.
176	12-Feb-2006	Smriti College of Pharmacy, Indore	Three students who went to the principal to complain about ragging were beaten up by the principal himself on the pretext of raising their voice against ragging. The students have accused the principal of manhandling them. One of the students became



			unconscious and had to be hospitalised.
177	11-May-2006	Government Polytechnic College, Indore	A first year student was beaten black and blue by the seniors on the pretext of ragging.
178	1-Jul-2006	Visva Bharati, Santiniketan	Their victim is a first-year undergraduate arts student of Sangeet Bhavan. She was allegedly forced into group sex by some of her roommates and an outsider in the hostel. By the time she was released, the girl was in a state of physical and mental trauma. Later she was hospitalised for her treatment and under unconsciousness she kept saying, "I'm not a thief, I'm not a fallen girl," said the victim's local guardian, Amita Hazra.
179	1-Jul-2006	Delhi Public School, R.K. Puram,	Deepak Sharma and his friend were told to lifteggs with their buttocks.
180	21-Jul-2006	Bhavan VM Public School, Baroda	A class VIII student packed his bags and went home complaining of ragging and verbal abuse.
181	28-Jul-2006	Sadra Centre, Gujarat	First year Microbiology students were asked to strip, oil put on their backs and branded as cattle with seniors putting their signature on them
182	1-Aug-2006	Vidyanagar	Sanoy and Sanjay Giri, both third year students of Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Durgabhai Deshmukh Colony near Osmania University were allegedly stabbed to death by Naveen Kumar, a first year B.S.C. HHA student of the same institute at their friends' flat at TRT Quarters.



183	8-Aug-2006	Patna, Bihar	Ragging at Patna Science College got out of hand when the bodyguard of Patna University Proctor opened fire at the students involved in harassing new students, injuring two in the process
184	20-Aug-2006	Durgapur	A first year engineering student was beaten up and forced to kneel down for over two hours by his seniors at the National Institute of Technology, Durgapur.
185	21-Aug-2006	Uttaranchal	Sonia Singh has alleged sexual harassment by seniors
186	28-Aug-2006	Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal	Bwenyhunloo, a fourth semester student was found hanging in his hostel room. According to sources, it is presumed that the case might be related to a recent ragging incident at the institution.
187	2-Sep-2006	Government Medical College, Kurnool	Stripped naked, three second-year students were made to walk naked from their ground floor hostel room to a second floor room as three seniors clicked away on their mobile camera. This lasted for four hours till they were set free by another group of students.
188	4-Sep-2006	BJ Medical College, Pune	A first-year medical student was admitted to the ICU of the Sassoon Hospital after he was ragged by his seniors. He was made to do 200 push-ups! Due to the exertion, he was also passing blood in his urine.
189	1-Sep-2006	Andhra Pradesh	C. Lalitha, mother of Mukesh who was ragged brutally, ended her life by hanging herself from the fan when Mukesh



			and his father had gone to the NHRC office. Its believed that the spread of the incident in the community and the controversy surrounding it, forced her to take such an extreme step. Its also believed that she went into a depression when she came to know about the ragging incident.
190	18-Sep-2006	Mumbai	Rohit Vijay Rane, ragged in Chiplun, suffers swelling to skull and chest, and has belt marks on his hands, back and knee.
191	20-Sep-2006	Indore	A college student, caught and detained, for ragging others, has allegedly committed suicide by jumping in front of a train.
192	20-Sep-2006	TNB College, Bhagalpur, Bihar	Three students were injured in a bomb blast in the hostel over an altercation over ragging. The bombs were exploded by 12 persons, including outsiders.
193	14-Oct-2006	Kozhikode	Vipinlal, a student of MS Teachers Training Centre at Ranni, was admitted to the Kozhikode Medical College due to alleged ragging. Its learnt that he was forced to take alcohol by the seniors.
194	15-Oct-2006	Kolaghat	C. Pal was forced to smoke and thrashed by his seniors. He fainted after taking the drug and has been hospitalised.
195	16-Oct-2006	Bhubaneshwar, Orissa	Student of the Orissa University of Agriculture Technology suffered serious serious spinal injuries and broke both his legs after being pushed from a hostel terrace in the name of ragging.
196	18-Oct-2006	Bhubaneshwar, Orissa	Bijoy K. Maharathi died after being tortured by students of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences for



197	10-Nov-2006	Hyderabad	three weeks. SP Manoj, an engineering student, hanged himself in his private hostel room at Langer Houz.
198	3-Dec-2006	G. Pulla Reddy College of Engineering, Kurnool	Somasekar, first year, tried attempting suicide by consuming sleeping pills after he was forced to strip by accused Sumant, though the latter denied ragging.
199	18-Jan-2007	MG College, Kerala	Girl attempts suicide after being repeatedly ragged by seniors.
200	30-Jan-2007	Stanley Medical College, Chennai	21 students suspended for ragging their junior.
201	4-Feb-2007	Nursing School, Kerala	Police charges a case of attempt to murder against two persons recognisable to the girl who was a victim of the SME ragging case.
202	20-Feb-2007	Kanpur	A second year student was admitted in the hospital following injuries sustained during ragging
203	25-Feb-2007	Nursing College, Anantapur	College ransacked and records destroyed after a student committed suicide due to ragging. The victim was forced to go back to the college by her parents despite being brutally ragged.
204	26-Feb-2006	GMC, Jammu	First year girl ragged by senior girls leading to bruises and soft tissue injury.
205	15-Mar-2007	MANIT, Bhopal	8 students expelled on charges of ragging.
206	Not Available	Regional Engineering College, Rourkela	Rohit, a fresher, smashed the window panes after he was ragged. He hurt his arm and bled profusely and had to be admitted.



207	Not Available		Due to the fear of ragging that gripped Rajiv's heart, he marred his joy of clearing the Combined Entrance Test.
208	Not Available	HAU, Hisar	11 students have been suspended for their involvement in ragging that left 4 students injured.
209	Not Available	Institute of Technology and Science Ghaziabad	12 students were arrested after violence erupted between two groups of students due to ragging. 2 students were injured in the violence. Some involved were sons of prominent persons.
210	Not Available	KMC, DU, Delhi	2 third year students were suspended till the end of the second term after they were caught ragging.
211	Not Available	Architecture College, Lucknow	3 juniors were forced to flee the hostel after they were severely ragged. The college has expelled 6 students.



## 10. Contributors

Several CURE members have contributed to this report. Their brief profiles follow:

- *Harsh Agarwal (harsh.agarwal@noragging.com)* has worked in various capacities with several national and international organisations including the United Nations both in India and abroad. He pursued his ragging case with various offices in India including the NHRC for two years. He has been engaged with the issue of ragging for the past six years.
- *Varun Aggarwal (varun.aggarwal@noragging.com)* is currently pursuing his Ph.D in Electrical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA. He is an award winning researcher in his field of research. He has been working on the issue of ragging for the past six years.
- *Mohit Garg (mohit.garg@noragging.com)* is an engineer by profession, currently working in Bangalore. He received his Dual Degree (M.Tech + B.Tech) from IIT Bombay (Gold Medalist). He has been working on the issue of ragging for the past six years.
- *Anant Asthana (anant.asthana@noragging.com)* is a final year law student from Faculty of Law, Aligarh Muslim University. He has been engaged with "Anti Ragging Movement" in India since last few years. He is also the founder of a budding initiative named as "Lawyers' Action & Intervention Cell", whose primary mission is to work towards elimination of social evils/problems through awareness, advocacy and legal action. His efforts resulted in noted Islamic seminary Dar-ul-Uloom Deoband issuing an injunction against ragging in 2005.
- *Vidya Swamy (vidya.swamy@noragging.com)* is a political science student at the University of Delhi. She has been engaged with the issue of ragging for the past two years.
- *Rajiv Ram (rajiv.ram@noragging.com)* is the CEO of RNG Technologies Group, Chicago, USA and was the founder of several dot-com companies. He is the patron-in-chief of CURE and has provided maturity and much needed guidance to enable CURE to reach the level it is at today.
- *Dhruv Raj Sharma (dhruv.sharma@noragging.com)* has recently completed his Masters in Applied Psychology from the University of Delhi. He holds admission to the University College London Department of Psychology. He has been a



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Commonwealth Scholarships nominee, and a Bharat Petroleum Scholar.  
Presently, he's co-authoring a book on world-renowned academic-underachievers.