

NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 18th November, 2021

No. UGMEB/NMC/Rules & Regulations/2021.—In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 57 of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 (30 of 2019) and in pursuance of the Judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India passed in Special Leave Petition (SLP) No. 24295 of 2006, dated the 16th May, 2007 and in Civil Appeal No. 887 of 2009 dated the 8th May, 2009, and the UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009, the National Medical Commission hereby makes the following regulations namely:-

1. Short title, extent and commencement.— (1) These regulations may be called the National Medical Commission (Prevention and Prohibition of Ragging in Medical Colleges and Institutions) Regulations, 2021.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their final publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions.— (1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “Academic Year” means the period from the commencement of admission of students to any course of study in the medical college or institution to the completion of academic requirements, including examinations if any, at the end of that particular year;

(b) “Act” means the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 (30 of 2019);

(c) “Commission” means the National Medical Commission constituted under section 3 of the Act;

(d) “Fresher” means a student who has been admitted to an institution and who is undergoing his first year of study in such institution;

(e) “Head of the Institution” means the Dean or Principal or Director or any other appropriate authority responsible for administration including academic and affairs related to students, residents and fellows of the concerned medical college or institution;

(f) “Hostel” means any place of residence of students with all its associated areas and facilities such as boarding and administered by the medical college or institution;

(g) “MBBS” means the degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery of a University or an approved institution from India in accordance with the Regulations on Graduate Medical Education, 1997 and subsequent amendments duly recognised by the National Medical Commission under subsection (2) of section 61 of the Act;

(h) “Medical College or Institution” means any institution within India which grants degrees, diplomas or licences in medicine and include affiliated colleges and deemed to be Universities as approved by the Commission and listed with the Undergraduate Medical Education Board or Postgraduate Medical Education Board under the provisions of sections 24, 25 and 35 of the Act; and includes but not limited to all areas such as departments, all teaching and learning facilities, hospitals and all its premises whether academic, residential, playgrounds or canteen whether located within or outside the campus and all means of transportation, public or private, used by students in pursuit of their studies;

(i) “Medicine” means modern scientific medicine or allopathy in all its branches and includes surgery and obstetrics, but does not include veterinary medicine and surgery;

(j) “Notification” means notification published in the Official Gazette and the expression “notify” shall be construed accordingly;

(k) “Permanent Registration” is the registration of eligible persons with a duly recognised primary medical qualification as regulated under the provisions of Chapter VI of the Act, that provides license to an individual to independently practice modern scientific system of medicine or allopathy in India;

(l) “Ragging” means the act of misconduct of students towards one another as defined in regulation 4;

(m) “Senior” means a student who is undergoing his study in such institution and has been admitted to an institution in the previous academic year or in an earlier year and therefore implies that he has joined the institution prior to the batch of a fresher;

(n) “Student” means any person enrolled and pursuing a course in any medical college or institution as approved by the Commission;

(o) “University” for the purpose of these regulations shall have the meaning assigned to it in clause (f) of section 2 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (3 of 1956) and includes a health University in India that is established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, a Provincial Act or a State Act, an institution deemed to be University under section 3 of the said Act, or an institution specially empowered by an Act of Parliament to confer or grant degrees;

(p) “University Grants Commission” means the University Grants Commission established under section 4 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (3 of 1956) ;

(q) “Warden” means an official or officials entrusted with the routine administration and functioning of the hostels by the Head of the Institution.

(2) Words and expressions used in these regulations and not defined herein but defined in the Act shall have the respective meanings assigned to them in the Act.

3. Objective.—The objective of these regulations is to root out ragging in all its forms from medical colleges and institutions in the country, by prohibiting it under these regulations, preventing its occurrence, and instituting punitive measures against those who indulge in ragging as provided for in these regulations and in accordance with prevailing and applicable laws in force.

CHAPTER II

RAGGING

3. Definition of Ragging.—Ragging shall mean any disorderly conduct, whether by words spoken or written or by an act which has the effect of teasing, treating or handling with rudeness any other student, indulging in rowdy or undisciplined activities which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in a fresher or a junior student or asking the students to do any act or perform something which such student will not in the ordinary course and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame or embarrassment so as to adversely affect the physique or psyche of a fresher or a junior student.

4. Actions that may constitute ragging.—The following actions shall be included but not limited to those that may constitute ragging, namely:—

(a) 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;

(b) indulging in rowdy or undisciplined activities by any student or students which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship, physical or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in any fresher or any other student;

(c) asking any student to do any act which such the 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;

(d) any act by a senior student that prevents, disrupts or disturbs the regular academic activity of any other student or a fresher;

- (e) exploiting the services of a fresher or any other student for completing the academic tasks assigned to an individual or a group of students;
- (f) any act of financial extortion or forceful expenditure burden put on a fresher or any other student by students;
- (g) any act of physical abuse including all variants of it, such as, sexual abuse, homosexual assaults, stripping, forcing obscene and lewd acts, gestures, causing bodily harm or any other danger to health or person;
- (h) any act or abuse by spoken words, emails, post, snail-mails, blogs, public insults which would also include deriving perverted pleasure, vicarious or sadistic thrill from actively or passively participating in the discomfiture to fresher or any other student;
- (i) any act of physical or mental abuse (including bullying and exclusion) targeted at another student (fresher or otherwise) on the ground of colour, race, religion, caste, ethnicity, gender (including transgender), sexual orientation, appearance, nationality, regional origins, linguistic identity, place of birth, place of residence or economic background;
- (j) any act that undermines human dignity and respect through humiliation or otherwise;
- (k) any act that affects the mental health and self-confidence of a 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;
- (l) any other act not explicitly mentioned above but otherwise construed as an act of ragging in the letter and spirit of the definition for ragging as provided under regulations 3 and 4.

CHAPTER III

MEASURES TO PROHIBIT AND PREVENT RAGGING BY INSTITUTIONS

5. Duties and responsibilities of institutions.—Curbing and eradication of ragging requires the efforts of all stake holders' , namely, seniors, freshers, teachers, parents and the civic society at large and the measures provided in the provisions of this Chapter form the broad guidelines for prohibiting and preventing ragging by the Institution.

6. Measures to be taken by medical college or institution to prohibit ragging.— The following measures shall be taken by the medical colleges or institutions for prohibiting ragging, namely:—

- (a) no institution, shall not in any manner permit or condone any reported incident of ragging in any form; and all institutions shall take all necessary and required measures, including but not limited to the provisions of these regulations, to achieve the objective of eliminating ragging, within the institution or outside;

(b) every medical college or institution shall take action in accordance with these regulations against those found guilty of ragging or abetting ragging, actively or passively, or being part of a conspiracy to promote ragging.

7. Measures to be taken by medical college or institution to prevent ragging.—(1) The following measures shall be taken by the medical college or institution before the admission process for preventing ragging, namely:—

(i) All public notifications of the medical college or institution related to admission of students to any course as declared in any electronic, audio-visual or print or any other media shall expressly provide that—

(a) Ragging is a serious offence that is totally prohibited in the medical college or institution

(b) any one found guilty of ragging or abetting ragging, whether actively or passively, or being a part of a conspiracy to promote ragging, is liable to be punished in accordance with these regulations as well as under the provisions of any penal law for the time being in force;

(ii) the admission brochure or prospectus or information bulletins, in print, digital or any other form shall include these regulations;

(iii) it shall be incumbent on all organisations conducting examinations for the purpose of entrance or exit or any other form of assessment and counseling or seat allotment related to the colleges or institutions, to which these regulations apply, to include these regulations in their Information Bulletin in whichever forms these are available as given below:

(a) the National Testing Agency (NTA) shall include these regulations in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test [NEET (UG)] for MBBS;

(b) the National Board of Examinations (NBE) shall include these regulations in the Information Bulletin of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test for Postgraduate [NEET (PG)] and Superspecialty [NEET(SS)] Courses;

(c) the Medical Counseling Committee (MCC) of the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, conducting Online Under Graduate Medical or Postgraduate or Super-specialty courses Seat Allotment process (Online

Counseling), shall display these regulations on their website for the respective counseling processes;

(d) these regulations shall be available in the Information Bulletin for the National Exit Test (NExT) to be held under section 15 of the Act;

(e) medical colleges or institutions shall ensure that if any of their assessments or examinations or counseling related to admission process is conducted by any organisation under them or outsourced thereof, the Information Bulletin shall contain these regulations;

(iv) medical colleges or institutions shall stagger the dates of admission such that the fresh batch is admitted before the commencement of new sessions of senior batches;

(v) before the commencement of the academic session in any medical college or institution, the Head of the Institution shall convene and address a meeting of various functionaries or agencies, such as Hostel Wardens, representatives of students, parents or guardians, faculty, district administration including the police, to discuss the measures for curbing ragging;

(vi) the Head of the Institution shall constitute Anti-Ragging Committees, Anti-Ragging Squads and other such committees or assign duties to fulfill the provisions of these regulations;

(vii) the medical college or institution shall, to make the community at large and the students in

particular aware of the dehumanizing effect of ragging, and the approach of the institution towards those indulging in ragging, even utilising the media to give wide publicity and prominently display posters depicting the provisions of penal law applicable to incidents of ragging, and the provisions of these regulations in the premises of the institutions, especially hostels;

(viii) the contact numbers, details of control room, helpline and the personnel related to anti-ragging activities shall be prominently displayed, provided and easily available to freshers and all concerned so that immediate contact can be established whenever necessary;

(ix) the vacation period before the start of the admission process may be used to publicise the objectives and provisions of these regulations;

(x) the institution shall identify, properly illuminate and keep a close watch on all locations known to be vulnerable to occurrences of ragging incidents;

(xi) it should be ensured that except in those areas where unavoidable, there shall be no hindrance, by way of jamming, etc., to the use of mobile phones, within the medical college or institution including hostels and other areas;

(xii) it is recommended that monitoring of the campus, or at least areas vulnerable to incidents of ragging be done through video-surveillance;

(xiii) the Faculty and staff of the medical college or institution shall have induction arrangements, including those which anticipate, identify and plan to meet any special needs of any specific section of students, in place well in advance of the beginning of the academic year with an aim to promote the objectives of these regulations;

(xiv) every medical college or institution shall engage or seek the assistance of professional counselors or in-house counselors as may be available in the Department of Psychiatry before the commencement of the academic session, to be available for counseling students;

(xv) the medical college or institution may form a system of assigning faculty mentors before-hand who would communicate and regularly with students and their parents or guardians;

(xvi) the local police and authorities shall be provided with details of the dates of admission and the addresses of the every privately commercially managed hostels or lodges used for residential purposes by students enrolled in the medical college or institution;

(xvii) the Anti-Ragging Squad shall have adequate drills to be adequately competent to conduct vigil after students are admitted;

(xviii) an Anti-Ragging Control Room may be established with contact details so that students are able to contact the control room at any time of the day or night to report incidents of ragging or seek such assistance as may be needed;

(xix) adequate and robust communication mechanisms shall be put in place so that should the need arise, the medical college or institution can immediately and simultaneously contact and relay information within the institution to appropriate officials, the district authorities and the police;

(xx) the institutional website shall have provision for posting anti-ragging notifications, activities, and also the reports of incidents of ragging and the action taken thereof under public domain

2) The following measures shall be taken by the medical college or institution at the time of the admission process, namely:—

(i) at the time of admission, an undertaking shall be taken that the student shall not involve in ragging in any manner whatsoever in the format given in the following Annexure, namely:—

(a) Undertaking by the Student in Form I;

(b) Undertaking by the Parent or Guardian in Form II;

(ii) those who seek admission in hostels either within the premises or outside the premises of the medical college or institution shall give an undertaking that the student shall not be involved in ragging in any manner whatsoever in the format given in the following Annexures, namely:—

(a) Undertaking by the Student in Form I;

(b) Undertaking by the Parent / Guardian in Form II;

(iii) the admission requirements shall include a document in the form of the School Leaving

Certificate or Transfer Certificate or Migration Certificate or Character Certificate, as the case may be, which shall include a report on the behavioural pattern of the applicant, so that the medical college or institution can thereafter keep intense watch upon a student who has a negative entry in this regard;

(iv) every student at the time of his registration shall inform the medical college or institution about his place of residence while pursuing the course of study, and in case the student has not decided his place of residence or

intends to change the same, the details of his place of residence shall be provided immediately on deciding the same; and specifically in regard to a private commercially managed lodge or hostel where he has taken up residence;

(v) every fresh student admitted to the institution shall be provided with—

(a). details of those who could be contacted such as of the Anti-Ragging Helpline or control room referred to in these regulations, wardens, Head of the institution, members of the Anti-Ragging Squads and Committees, relevant district and police authorities; for help and guidance at any time, if and when required;

(b) the details of arrangements made for their induction and orientation which promote efficient and effective means of integrating them fully as students with those already admitted of the institution in earlier years;

(c) their rights as *bona fide* students of the medical college or institution;

(d) clear instructions that they should desist from doing anything, with or against their will, even if ordered to by the seniors students, and that any attempt of ragging shall be promptly reported to the Anti-ragging Squad or to the Warden or to the Head of the institution, as the case may be;

(e) instructions that at least for a specified period that they would be accompanied and monitored

appropriately should they leave their hostel premises to a boarding facility or mess or canteen or

to a recreational facility such as the gymnasium, especially in the evening or at night;

(f) all freshers shall seek prior permission and provide contact details and timings of leaving and

expected return to hostels and reasons for such visit should they for any reason leave the hostel and institutional premises, such as to visit local guardians, etc.

(3) The following measures shall be taken by the medical college or institution after the admission process , namely:—

- (i) freshers shall be lodged, as far as may be, in a separate hostel block or wing and the medical college or institution shall ensure that access of seniors to accommodation allotted to freshers is strictly monitored by wardens, security guards and other staff of the institution
- (ii) the medical college or institution shall conduct separate orientation programmes for fresh students to apprise and familiarise them with the academic environment of such medical college or institution;
- (iii) the freshers shall be counseled to prepare them for the life ahead, particularly in regard to the life in hostels and to the extent possible, also involve parents and teachers in the counseling sessions
- (iv) the medical college or institution shall schedule orientation with seniors through—

(a) joint sensitisation programme and counseling of both freshers and senior students by a professional counselor;

(b) joint interactions with seniors in the form of cultural and sports activities;

(c) active monitoring, promoting and regulating healthy interaction between the freshers, Junior students and senior students by appropriate committees, including the faculty, student advisors, wardens and some senior students as its members;

(v) Freshers shall be allotted faculty members who shall act as mentors as indicated under regulation 14;

(vi) the medical college or institution may devise its own following additional methods and put into place all measures necessary and provided in various provisions of this Chapter to prohibit and prevent ragging thereby fulfilling the provisions of these regulations and the UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009 including the related laws for the time being in force which may be applicable:

(a). all necessary Committees, personnel, measures and plans shall be put into place and completely functional and co-ordinate with each other to implement the requirements;

(b). students, freshers and seniors, parents, faculty and all other staff shall be adequately informed of the provisions of anti-ragging regulations;

(c) strict vigil shall be enforced at all times by all concerned with special emphasis on hostels and canteen areas;

(d) surprise checks round the clock, anonymous surveys and strict enforcement of disciplinary measures shall be put in force;

(e) there shall be easy accessibility to report incidents of ragging as well as untoward incidents, distress, difficulties of freshers through availability of contact numbers of Heads of Institution, faculty, Anti Ragging Squad, members of Anti Ragging Committee, hostel wardens and other staff directly or through control room or helplines;

(f) there shall be established communication or operating protocols with district administration and police for their swift and prompt intervention should the need arise;

(g) the message and the intent shall be loud and clear that reporting every incident of ragging is mandatory for all students and staff of the institution and that every case of ragging shall be dealt with according to the provisions of these regulations and the applicable laws for the time being in force;

(vi) the medical college or institution shall provide reports of all regarding Anti-Ragging measures , incidents of ragging, directions of the courts to the University at pre-decided intervals, which may be weekly for the first three months after admission of students as provided in regulation 17;

(vii) the medical college or institution shall provide compliance reports in the format provided in Form III, reports regarding anti-ragging measures, incidents of ragging, actions taken thereof , directions of the courts to the Commission as provided in regulation 18;

(viii) the above mentioned measures are neither meant to be comprehensive nor complete and the medical college or institution may utilise measures as provided in different provisions of these regulations; and in addition to them, encourage not only to innovate and devise measures that would enhance efforts to prohibit, prevent and help identify incidents of ragging but also make suitable suggestions to their affiliated Universities for implementation in other medical colleges or institutions.

(4) The following measures shall be taken by the medical college or institution at the end of the academic year, namely:—

(i) at the end of each academic year, the Head of the Institution or Dean shall send a letter to the parents or guardians of the students who are completing their first year reminding them of the provisions of these regulations and any other law for the time being in force to impress upon their wards to desist from indulging in ragging on their return to the medical college or institution at the beginning of the next academic session;

(ii) at the end of every academic year, the medical college or institution shall form a Mentoring Committee or Mentoring Cell consisting of mentors for the succeeding academic year as provided in regulation 14.

8. Issue of migration certificates, transfer certificates and conduct certificates.—The migration certificate or transfer certificate or conduct certificate , as the case may be, issued to the student by the medical college or institution shall have an entry, apart from those relating to general conduct and behaviour as to whether the student has been punished for the offence of committing or abetting ragging, or not, as also whether the student has displayed persistent violent or aggressive behaviour or any inclination to harm others

9. Measures for encouraging healthy interaction between freshers and seniors.—The following measures shall be taken by the medical college or institution for encouraging healthy interaction between freshers and seniors, namely:—

(i) the institution shall set up appropriate committees including the faculty from pre-clinical years , representatives of students, warden and some senior students to actively monitor, promote and regulate healthy, interaction between the freshers and senior students;

(ii) freshers' welcome parties shall be organised at the institutional or departmental level by senior students and faculty together, preferably within the first two weeks of the beginning of the academic session, for proper introduction to one another and where the talents of the freshers are brought out properly in the presence of the faculty, thus helping them to shed their inferiority complex, if any, and remove their inhibition;

(iii) the institution shall enhance the student-faculty interaction by involving both fresher and senior students in appropriate matters of the medical college or institution, such as curriculum design, extracurricular activities and

institutional celebrations so that the students feel that they are responsible partners in managing the affairs of the institution.

10. Sensitisation of institutional employees and staff towards ragging.—The following measures shall be taken by the medical college or institution for sensitisation of institutional employees and staff towards ragging, namely:—

- (i) it shall be the general collective responsibility of all levels and sections of authorities or functionaries including members of the faculty and employees of the medical college or institution, whether regular or temporary, and employees of service providers providing service within the institution, to prevent or to act promptly against the occurrence of ragging or any incident of ragging which comes to their notice;
- (ii) the medical college or institution shall sensitise all teaching and non-teaching members of staff, contract labour employed in the premises either for running canteen or as watch and ward or security staff or for cleaning or maintenance of the buildings or lawns and employees of service providers providing services within the medical college or institution regarding the effects of ragging and various provisions of these regulations relating to anti-ragging and the appreciation of the relevant human rights, as well as inputs on topics regarding sensitisation against corporal punishments and checking of bullying amongst students, so that every teacher is equipped to handle at least the rudiments of the counseling approach;
- (iii) the employers or employees of the canteens or mess shall be given necessary instructions to keep strict vigil and to report the incidents of ragging to the college authorities, if any;
- (iv) all institutional employees and staff, including contractual employees of the hostels and the watch and ward or security shall be apprised of institutional plans to curb ragging, as appropriate, and clarify duties assigned;
- (v) all institutional employees and staff, including contractual employees shall be required to give an undertaking that he shall report promptly any case of ragging which comes to his notice;
- (vi) all employees of the medical college or institution shall be instructed to keep a strict vigil in the area of their work and to report the incidents of ragging to the appropriate authorities, as may be required;
- (vii) the medical college or institution shall make provision for recognising and rewarding employees and other staff for furthering anti-ragging activities such as reporting incidents of ragging by way of issuing certificates of appreciation, felicitating them and make suitable entries in their service records.

11. Institutional committees and related measures.—(1) Every medical college or institution shall constitute the following committees and related measures as provided in regulation 6.3 of the UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009 and under these regulations.

(2) The medical college or institution shall constitute an Anti-Ragging Committee.

(3) The Anti-Ragging Committee shall broadly comprise of the following members duly constituted by the Head of the Institution and shall have a diverse mix of persons of different levels and gender, namely:—

- (i) Head of the Institution;
- (ii) representatives of faculty members;

(iii) representatives of students belonging to the freshers' category;

(iv) representatives of senior students;

(v) representatives of parents;

(vi) representatives of non-teaching staff;

(vii) representatives of civil and police administration;

(viii) representatives of local media; and

(ix) Non-Government Organizations involved in youth activities.

(4) The duties of the Anti-Ragging Committee include but is not limited to—

(i) overall monitoring of Anti-Ragging activities of the medical college or institution;

(ii) ensuring compliance with the provisions concerning ragging both of these regulations as well as the provisions of any law for the time being in force;

(iii) monitoring the activities of the Anti-Ragging Squad;

(iv) investigate reports of ragging, if any, or approve committees formed for this purpose;

(v) make suggestions for improvement of measures taken by the medical college or institution for prohibiting and preventing ragging.

12. Anti-Ragging Squad.—The institution shall constitute an Anti-Ragging Squad.

(1) The Anti-Ragging Squad constituted by the Head of the Institution shall broadly comprise of faculty and staff of the hostels including wardens and other staff, as may be necessary and there shall be a judicious mix of gender in the Anti-Ragging Squad with lady members assigned to ladies hostels.

(2) The duties of the Anti-Ragging Squad include but is not limited to—

a. Adhering to a duty roster if so prepared;

b. Remaining vigilant and agile at all times and also provide necessary details so that the members are easily reachable even by freshers and other students;

c. Making surprise checks in the hostels, boarding areas, playgrounds and transport facilities and other areas even at odd hours for which the Anti-Ragging Squad shall be duly empowered;

d. Making discreet enquiries regarding compliance and adherence of these regulations by seniors;

- e. Conducting anonymous surveys that may be random, to identify possibly unreported incidents of ragging as designed by the medical college or institution;
- f. checking freshers for any injuries or indirect evidences of possible ragging such as inability to stay awake during the day indicating possible ragging throughout the night or inability to sleep due to fear of ragging;
- g. informing the authorities concerned to rectify vulnerable areas such as dark stretches due to fused bulbs, etc.;
- h. making on the spot and other necessary enquiries on incidents of ragging and report to the Anti-Ragging Committee;
- i. reporting all cases of ragging to the Head of the Institution and other functionaries, as may be required;
- j. making entries regarding timings and details of checking including remarks or findings, if any, in a register.

13. Anti-Ragging Control Room or helpline.—

(1) The medical college or institution shall establish an Anti-Ragging Control Room or helpline for the purpose of ensuring compliance of the provisions of these regulations.

(2) It is preferable to house Anti-Ragging Control Rooms within or near the hostel premises, which shall be manned round the clock and the contact number or numbers shall be provided to all students and their parents at the time of admission.

(3) The Anti-Ragging Control Room or helpline maybe a single-point contact for all emergencies arising out of incidents of ragging, and on receiving calls, the necessary information shall be simultaneously relayed and disseminated immediately to appropriate personnel including the security and police.

14. Mentoring Committee or Mentoring Cell.—

(1) The medical college or institution shall, at the end of each academic year, in order to promote the objectives of these regulations, constitute a Mentoring Committee or Mentoring Cell.

(2) The Mentoring Committee or Mentoring Cell shall draw a list of faculty members who may volunteer to the mentoring process.

(3) The system of mentoring, if so desired may be tried or graded with a group of junior mentors being supervised or overseen by a single senior mentor.

(4) The number of students under each mentor may be decided appropriately by the medical college or institution but as far as possible, not exceeding six.

(5) **The broad functions of mentors** shall be the following , namely:—

(i) interact individually with the mentee fresher student every day for ascertaining the problems or difficulties, if any, faced by the fresher in the medical college or institution;

(ii) extend necessary help to the fresher in overcoming the same;

(iii) coordinate with the wardens of the hostels and to make surprise visits to the rooms in such hostels , where a member or members of the group are lodged;

(iv) interact with the parents or guardians of the mentees to discuss and provide solutions to problems faced by the student;

(v) maintain a diary of his/her interaction with the freshers under his charge;

(vi) senior students may be inducted into the mentoring process under supervision by faculty mentors.

15. Student Affairs or Hostel Committee.—

(1) The medical college or institution may choose to have a separate Student Affairs or Hostel Committee to look after the affairs of the hostel under a senior faculty member who shall oversee the affairs of the hostels.

(2) The designated warden referred to in regulation 16 may function under the Student Affairs or Hostel Committee , which shall play an important role in co-coordinating and implementing all anti-ragging measures related to hostels.

16. Warden.—

(1) The hostel warden is a person employed or designated to take care of administrative affairs , supervise boarding and lodging of students in hostels and ensure that the rules and regulations as applicable are obeyed.

(2) Wardens shall be appointed as per the eligibility criteria laid down by University Grants Commission or any other competent authority of the concerned University or the State Government or the medical college or institution.

- (3) Wardens may be assisted by deputy wardens or assistant wardens, who shall perform similar duties under the supervision of the warden.
- (4) The warden may function under a Student Affairs or Hostel Committee or in any manner as approved by the medical college or institution.
- (5) The warden shall have an essential and important role to play in the anti-ragging efforts of the medical college or institution, since the hostels are vulnerable areas, especially after normal academic hours when freshers and senior students are likely to face each other in the hostels.
- (6) The wardens shall be accessible at all hours and shall be provided with mobile phones.
- (7) The medical college or institution shall review and suitably enhance the powers and perquisites of the warden and authorities involved in curbing the menace of ragging.
- (8) The medical college or institution shall empower the warden to control security personnel in hostels for antiragging measures.

17. Duties and responsibilities of Universities.—

- (1) Every University administering medical colleges or institutions may formulate its own regulations to curb ragging on the basis of the provisions contained in the UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009.
- (2) Every University shall act as the nodal agency of the medical colleges or institutions which are affiliated with it, being responsible for overall monitoring, reviewing and ensuring compliance to all relevant regulations and other applicable laws for the time being in force, for prohibiting and preventing ragging in the affiliated colleges.
- (3) Every University shall have a Monitoring Committee which shall be the prime-mover of implementation of all anti-ragging activities of the affiliated medical colleges or institutions.
- (4) The Monitoring Committee referred to in sub-regulation (3) shall—
 - (i) ensure compliance to the provisions of these regulations in letter and spirit, regularly;
 - (ii) oversee and monitor activities related to—
 - (a) Anti-Ragging Committee, Anti-Ragging Squads and Mentoring Committees or Mentoring Cells;
 - (b) publicity of anti-ragging regulations and laws;
 - (c) conduct of orientation programmes;
 - (d) conduct of orientation and counseling sessions;

(e) reviewing and approving reports of investigations related to ragging received from constituent colleges or institutions;

(f) investigation of incidents of ragging by the medical colleges or institutions as provided under the provisions of Chapter IV;

(g) implementation by medical colleges or institutions of suggestions for improvement; and

(h) any other such activity that may be necessary from time to time.

(5) Every University shall act as the Appellate Body for all decisions or orders related to incidents of ragging in respect of its affiliated medical colleges or institutions as provided under regulation 25.

(6) The Universities shall regularly review the anti-ragging measures of its affiliated medical colleges or institutions.

(7) The Universities shall take suitable action, as deemed fit, against defaulting medical colleges or institutions affiliated with it for such non-compliance under intimation to the Commission and the State Governments or Central Government as may be appropriate, which may include but is not limited to—

(i) withdrawal of affiliation or recognition or other privileges conferred; or

(ii) prohibiting such medical college or institution from presenting any student or students then undergoing any programme of study therein for the award of any degree or diploma of the University; or

(iii) withdrawal of grants to the medical college or institution; or

(iv) hosting on the website the non-compliance, including incidents of ragging and the actions taken thereof by the medical college or institution; or

(v) any other action as may deem fit, provided under the rules or regulations of such University.

(8) The Universities shall play a facilitatory role and provide suggestions to the medical colleges or institutions affiliated with them to make implementation of measures to prohibit and prevent ragging in such medical colleges or institutions more effective so as to eradicate the menace altogether.

(9) All reports related to incidents of ragging and appeals thereof shall be provided to the Commission.

(10) Every University shall co-ordinate with the Commission, especially when punitive measures related to derecognition of institutions, courses and degrees are concerned, since several aspects of medical education and training are regulated under the provisions of Act.

18. Duties and responsibilities of Commission.—(1) The Commission shall monitor the medical colleges or institutions through the Universities with which they are affiliated with regard to implementation and compliance of the provisions of these regulations.

(2) Every medical college or institution shall submit a compliance report to the Commission annually in the format provided in Form III.

(3) The Commission shall review compliance during recognition inspections or assessments by the Medical Assessment and Rating Board.

(4) All incidents of ragging and reports thereof including outcome of appeals and directions from courts, if any, shall be provided to the Commission by the medical college or institution and by the University with which such medical college or institution is affiliated to.

(5) If an medical college or institution fails to comply with these regulations and curb ragging, the Commission shall take appropriate action as it may deem fit which includes but is not limited to the following, namely:—

(i) initiate de-recognition process against such medical college or institution;

(ii) reduce the admission capacity of that medical college or institution to such extent to which the Commission may deem fit;

(iii) stop further admission in that medical college or institution until further orders;

(iv) stop renewal of permission for undergraduate, postgraduate and super specialty medical courses;

(v) post the information regarding penalties so imposed on the concerned medical college or institution on the website of the Commission for information of all concerned; and

(vi) any other exemplary measure, as may be necessary.

19. Courts.—Courts may make effort to ensure that cases involving ragging are taken up on priority basis to send the correct message that ragging is not only to be discouraged but also to be dealt with sternness.

CHAPTER IV

DEALING WITH INCIDENTS OF RAGGING

20. Disciplinary matters to be resolved within the camps of institutions.—All matters of discipline within medical college or institution shall be resolved within the campus of such medical college or institution, except those impinging on law and order or breach of peace or public tranquility, which may be dealt with under the penal laws for the time being in force.

21. Reporting incidents of ragging.— (1) It shall be mandatory for all concerned to report every incident of ragging.

(2) Not reporting an incident of ragging even by a fresher shall be viewed seriously and may amount to abetment of ragging.

(3) The report or complaint of an incident of ragging may be made by—

(i) a fresher or a parent or other student; or

(ii) authorities of the hostel, security personnel or any other staff such as canteen staff; or

(iii) Head of the Institution, faculty member, or members of the Anti-Ragging Squad or Anti-Ragging Committee on surprise checking; or

(iv) Others such as direct complaint to local Police or District Authorities.

(4) In all instances, without exception, the name of the complainant, especially students, unless otherwise permissible, shall be kept confidential.

(5) Every information or complaint regarding incident of ragging shall be immediately and simultaneously conveyed to the Head of the Institution either directly or through the Control Room or anti-ragging helpline.

(6) Other officials of the medical college or institution, as shall be previously decided upon, such as the members of the Anti-Ragging Squad and Anti-Ragging Committee, hostel warden, security staff and others shall also be simultaneously informed.

(7) Necessary mechanisms shall be kept in place by the medical colleges or institutions for immediately relaying information regarding incidents of ragging to the University, district authorities, police officials.

22. Immediate action.— (1) On receiving the information of an incident of ragging, the Anti-Ragging Squad or an appropriate authority shall make an immediate on-the-spot enquiry and submit a report or recommendations to the Head of the Institution.

(2) The Head of institution shall, immediately on receipt of such information or recommendation, determine if a case under the penal laws is made out after inquiry as specified in regulation 23, proceed to file a First Information Report within twenty-four hours of receipt of such information or recommendation either on his own or through a member of the Anti-Ragging Committee or an official authorized by him in this behalf, with the police and local authorities, under the appropriate penal provisions.

(3) If a parent or student directly files a First Information Report with the police, the Head of the medical college or institution is not absolved of the responsibility of filing a First Information Report.

(4) The Head of the Institution shall also inform the University to which such medical college or institution is affiliated and the Nodal Anti-Ragging Authority of the District and the Commission.

23. Institutional inquiry or investigation and report.— (1) The Head of the Institution shall constitute a specific committee to inquire into or investigate the incident of ragging without waiting for the report of any other authority, even if this is being investigated by the police or local authorities.

(2) The inquiry or investigation shall be conducted thoroughly including on-the-spot or site of the incident in a fair and transparent manner, without any bias or prejudice, upholding the principles of natural justice and giving adequate opportunity to the student or students accused of ragging and other witnesses to place before it the

facts, documents and views concerning the incident of ragging, and considering such other relevant information as may be required.

(3) The entire process shall be completed and a report duly submitted within seven days of the information or reporting of the incident of ragging.

(4) The report shall be placed before the Head of the Institution or the Anti-Ragging Committee.

(5) The Anti-Ragging Committee shall examine the report, decide on and recommend further administrative action to the Head of the Institution.

24. Institutional administrative and penal actions.— (1) Every medical college or institution shall, after receiving the recommendations of the Anti-Ragging Committee under regulation 23, take necessary administrative action as it may deem fit.

(2) The Anti-Ragging Committee, on accepting the report of the institutional inquiry or investigation by the appropriate committee, shall recommend one or more of the actions provided under sub-regulations (5) and (6) depending on the nature, gravity and seriousness of the guilt established of the act of ragging as given under the provisions of Chapter II with the understanding that the action shall be exemplary and justifiably harsh to act as a deterrent against recurrence of such incidents:

(3) Where the individual person committing or abetting an act of ragging is not identified on the basis of the findings of the institutional inquiry or investigations, and the subsequent recommendations thereof, the medical college or institution thereof shall resort to collective punishment of more than one or a group of persons, as deemed fit, as a deterrent to ensure community pressure on the potential raggers.

(4) The broad ingredients that may call for punitive actions on receipt and approval of the recommendations include but is not limited to—

(i) abetment to ragging;

(ii) criminal conspiracy to ragging;

(iii) unlawful assembly and rioting while ragging;

(iv) public nuisance created during ragging;

(v) violation of decency and morals through ragging;

(vi) physical or psychological humiliation;

(vii) causing injury to body, causing hurt or grievous hurt;

(viii) wrongful restraint;

(ix) wrongful confinement;

(x) use of criminal force;

(xi) assault as well as sexual offences or even unnatural offences;

(xii) extortion in any form;

(xiii) criminal intimidation;

(xiv) criminal trespass;

(xv) offences against property;

(xvi) any other act construed as provided under regulations 3 and 4.

(5) The nature of punitive actions that may be decided shall include the following, but shall not be limited to one or more of these actions that may be imposed, as deemed fit, namely:—

(i) suspension from attending classes and academic privileges;

(ii) withholding or withdrawing scholarship or fellowship and other benefits;

(iii) debarring from appearing in any test or examination or other evaluation process;

(iv) withholding results;

(v) debarring from attending conferences, and other academic programmes;

(vi) debarring from representing the institution in any regional, national or international meet, tournament, youth festival, etc. ;

(vii) suspension or expulsion from the hostel;

(viii) imposition of a fine ranging from twenty-five thousand rupees to one lakh rupees;

(ix) cancellation of admission;

(x) rustication from the medical college or institution for a period ranging from one to four semesters;

(xi) expulsion from the medical colleges or institutions and consequent debarring from admission to any other institution for a specified period.

(6) Without prejudice to the provisions of regulation 8, it shall be mandatory upon the medical college or institution to enter in the Migration Certificate or Transfer Certificate issued to the student as to whether the student has been punished for the offence of committing or abetting ragging, or not, as also whether the student has displayed persistent violent or aggressive behaviour or any inclination to harm others.

(7) Any other measure as directed by Courts of law shall be followed by the medical college or institution.

(8) The Head of the Institution shall follow-up the information regarding the incident of ragging provided under sub-regulation (4) of regulation 22, to the University to which the medical college or institution is affiliated with a report regarding the findings of the institutional level inquiry or investigation and the actions taken thereof.

(9) The Head of the Institution shall provide a report regarding the incident of ragging and the actions taken thereof to the Commission having informed earlier according to the provisions of sub-regulation (4) of regulation 22.

25. Appellate authorities.—Every person who have been awarded punitive measures or punishments shall, in view of the principles of natural justice, have the right to appeal with the following, namely:—

(a) for decisions or orders at the level of the medical college or institution:

(i) the Vice Chancellor of the University to which the such medical college or institution is affiliated;

(ii) the Director or Chief Executive Officer , in the case of institutions of national importance;

(b) for decisions or orders at the level of the University:

(i) the Chancellor of the University to which the medical college or institution is affiliated;

(ii) the President in the case of institutions of national importance.

26. Fixing of responsibility.— (1) In addition to the inquiry or investigation of the incident of ragging, it shall be appropriately inquired as to if there has been any dereliction of duty or lapse by the medical college or institution in preventing and handling such incident.

(2) The Head of the Institution shall take prompt and appropriate action against each person whose dereliction of duty led to the incident.

(3) In case the lapse is on the part of the Head of the Institution, the authority designated to appoint the Head of the Institution shall, in its turn, take prompt and appropriate action.

(4) In addition to appropriate penal consequences, departmental enquiries may be initiated against such Heads of Institutions or members of the administration or faculty members or non-teaching staff and others who display an apathetic or insensitive attitude towards complaints of ragging.

(5) Remedial measures shall be instituted by the medical college or institution based on experiences.

(6) The University and the Commission shall be informed regarding the actions taken under the provisions of this regulation.

27. Functions of affiliated University.— (1) The University to which the medical college or institution is affiliated shall be informed of the incident of ragging by such medical college or institution as required under sub regulation (7) of regulation 21

(2) The University shall receive the report regarding the inquiry or investigation and action taken from the medical college or institution.

(3) The University shall act as the Appellate Authority as provided under regulation 25.

(4) The University shall take action as it may deem fit in accordance with the provisions of regulation 17

(5) The University shall ensure compliance of orders or directions, if any, from the Court of law.

28. Functions of Commission.— (1) The Commission shall be informed of the incident of ragging by the medical college or institution as required under sub-regulation (7) of regulation 21.

(2) The Commission shall receive the report regarding the inquiry or investigation and action taken including the outcome of appeals, if any, from the medical college or institution and the University.

(3) The Commission shall, on review of the reports, take appropriate action as in accordance with the provisions of regulation 18.

(4) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-regulations (1) to (3), the Commission may take the following actions, if it deems fit, namely:—

(a) impose an exemplary fine of one lakh rupees for each incident of ragging payable by the erring medical college or institution to such authority as may be designated by the appropriate Government, as the case may be; or

(b) declare the erring medical college or institution or University, as not having the minimum academic standards and warning the potential candidates for admission at such medical college or institution or University through public notice and posing on the Commission's website; or

(c) declare the erring medical college or institution or University to be ineligible for preferring any application under the **provisions of Chapter VI of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019** for a minimum period of one year, extendable by such quantum by the Commission as would be commensurate with the wrong.

