



To study the attitude of students towards the anti-ragging laws and measures implemented by the Universities of Delhi.

Rita Chowdhury

Assistant Professor, Department of Education
Guru Nanak College of Education

Abstract: The term “Ragging” has different connotations. It is considered as one of the biggest fear of any fresher entering college. The prominent reason behind its existence is varied perception towards it. It cannot be eliminated unless people condemn it. The present study lies in the realm of qualitative research. It aims at exploring the attitude of students towards ragging and provides reflection upon its educational implication.

Keywords: Ragging, University, attitude, laws

Introduction

Ragging is a variegated phenomenon as considerable debate always revolves around it with regard to its nature, widespread existence and its effect. In India, one of the major concern of an educational institution is growing indiscipline among students. Although Ragging is strictly banned but this ban has not been very effective as seen by the number of cases reported by media from time to time.

The term “Ragging” have different connotations. However there is a general agreement that it involves gross violation of basic human rights. The Hon’ble Supreme Court of India referred Ragging as “Ragging is 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 student, indulging in rowdy or indisciplined activities which cause or are likely to cause annoyance, hardship or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in a fresher or a junior student and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame or embarrassment so as to adversely affect the psyche of a fresher or a junior student”

Ragging is a psychological problem strengthened by social ignorance. Ragging is considered as one of the biggest fear of any fresher entering college. In order to eradicate such an appalling phenomenon, we require focused and concentrated effort to educate the masses as Ragging does not have an instantaneous solution. Many laws has been enacted and implemented for eradication of such a heinous phenomenon but passing a law or even implementing will not solve it. It cannot be eliminated unless people condemn it.

This paper attempts at exploring the attitude of college students towards ragging and provide reflection upon its educational implications.

Methodology: The present study lies in the realm of qualitative research as it focuses on the study of complex human and social problem in totality which impacts the standards of higher education. It is descriptive in nature as it is devoted to the gathering information about prevailing conditions of situations for the purpose of description and interpretation about ragging.



Sample: In the present study two universities of Delhi were considered for the required sample. Random sampling was employed for the selection of fifty students.

Tools: Attitude scale was used to study the attitude of students towards ragging as well as laws and measures. The attitude scale comprised of thirty five

statements, which has been presented with a series of tables along with findings and interpretation.

Analysis and interpretation of results

The total frequency of each response has been calculated and converted into percentage. In the proceeding tables **F** and **P** refers to frequency and percentage respectively.

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
1.	Ragging has deep psychological effect	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	12 26 2 6 4	24% 52% 4% 12% 8%
	Educational Implications	The menace of ragging should not be practiced in the educational institutions as it has deep psychological effect.		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
2	There is urgent need of stringent anti ragging rules	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	15 26 3 3 0	30% 52% 6% 6% 0%
	Educational Implication	There should be stringent anti ragging rules		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
3	Ragging in mild form is acceptable	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	6 28 3 10 3	12% 56% 6% 20% 6%
	Educational Implication	Ragging in mild form should not be acceptable by anyone as this may lead to its severe form		



S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
4	Sensitization programmes towards ragging organized by the universities are effective	Strongly Agree	10	20%
		Agree	18	36%
		Undecided	12	24%
		Disagree	6	12%
		Strongly Disagree	4	8%
	Educational Implication	Sensitization programmes organized by the universities towards ragging should be effective so that students are sensitized for the same		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
5	Actions taken by educational institutions to stop ragging are adequate	Strongly Agree	3	6%
		Agree	16	32%
		Undecided	8	16%
		Disagree	20	40%
		Strongly Disagree	3	6%
	Educational Implication	Actions taken by educational institutions should be adequate to curb ragging		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
6	Strict anti ragging laws has changed the mindset of the students with respect to ragging	Strongly Agree	13	26%
		Agree	26	52%
		Undecided	5	10%
		Disagree	5	10%
		Strongly Disagree	1	2%
	Educational Implication	Strict anti ragging laws should change the mindset of the students towards ragging		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
7	Helpline numbers are effective in implementing anti ragging rules more precisely	Strongly Agree	3	6%
		Agree	19	38%
		Undecided	13	26%
		Disagree	13	26%
		Strongly Disagree	2	4%
	Educational Implication	In order to implement anti ragging rules more precisely helpline numbers should be used effectively		



S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
8	Administration is actively concentrating on ragging cases	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	3 2 6 1 0 1 1 0	6% 52% 20% 22% 0%
	Educational Implication	Ragging cases should be actively concentrated by the administration of the educational institutions		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
9	Extreme ragging cases can be reduced but cannot be stopped	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	8 2 9 4 6 3	16% 58% 8% 12% 6%
	Educational Implication	The phenomenon ragging should be completely curbed in the educational institutions		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
10	Authorities do not take adequate action against the ragers due to fear of loss of reputation of the institution	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	9 17 8 13 3	18% 34% 16% 26% 6%
	Educational Implication	Authorities should take adequate action against the ragers without the fear of lack of reputation of the institution		



S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
11	Ragging is a violation of human rights	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	8 22 10 8 2	16% 44% 20% 16% 4%
	Educational Implication	Ragging should be considered as a violation of human rights		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
12	Declaring ragging as a criminal offence is a step in the right direction	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	11 19 7 9 4	22% 38% 14% 18% 8%
	Educational Implication	Declaring ragging as a criminal offence is a right step in order to curb the menace of ragging		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
13	Those found indulging in ragging should be expelled immediately.	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	3 17 8 18 3	6% 34% 16% 36% 6%
	Educational Implication	Punishment for those found indulging in ragging should be harsh so that it act as a deterrent		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
14	Ragging has deep psychological impact on the students	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	9 28 3 7 3	18% 56% 6% 14% 6%
	Educational Implication	The menace of ragging should not be practiced in the educational institutions as it has deep psychological effect		



S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
15	Ragging is a social evil	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	7 21 4 15 3	14% 42% 8% 30% 6%
	Educational Implication	Ragging should be considered as a social evil then only it could be curbed		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
16	There is lack of supervision by the college authorities leading to incidents of ragging	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	11 19 7 10 3	22% 38% 14% 20% 6%
	Educational Implication	There should be adequate supervision by the college authorities so that a single case of ragging cannot take place in the educational institutions.		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
17	Ragging impacts the standards of higher education	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	0 22 11 17 0	0% 44% 22% 34% 0%
	Educational Implication	Ragging should be considered as a phenomenon which impacts the standard of higher education		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
18	Harsh punishment is the only solution to curb ragging	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	8 11 6 21 4	16% 22% 12% 42% 8%



	Educational Implication	Harsh punishment should not be considered as the only solution to curb ragging. Ragging should be curbed through sensitization of students		
--	--------------------------------	--	--	--

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
19	Counseling of students will help in curbing the menace of ragging	Strongly Agree	8	16%
		Agree	33	66%
		Undecided	9	18%
		Disagree	0	0%
		Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	Educational Implication	Students should be provided counseling which will help in curbing the menace of ragging		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
20	Media coverage acts as a deterrent leading to action against the perpetrators.	Strongly Agree	7	14%
		Agree	25	50%
		Undecided	7	14%
		Disagree	7	14%
		Strongly Disagree	3	6%
	Educational Implication	Media coverage should act as a deterrent leading to action against the perpetrators of ragging		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
21	Immense media hype of the ragging cases creates unwanted stress on the student/s who have been ragged	Strongly Agree	9	18%
		Agree	29	58%
		Undecided	5	10%
		Disagree	7	14%
		Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	Educational Implication	Media coverage of ragging cases should be such that it does not create unwanted stress on the student/s who have been ragged		



S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
22	Physical and sexual ragging is no more prevalent	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	7 15 7 13 7	14% 30% 14% 26% 14%
	Educational Implication	All forms of ragging should be curbed in the educational institutions		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
23	Ragging makes a student an extrovert and leads to confidence building	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	3 25 6 11 5	6% 50% 12% 22% 10%
	Educational Implication	Ragging should not be considered as an activity that makes a student an extrovert		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
24	Financial extortion should be considered as ragging	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	7 21 7 12 3	14% 42% 14% 24% 6%
	Educational Implication	Financial extortion is a form of ragging that is considered as a criminal offence		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
25	Counseling of potential ragers will prevent ragging	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	7 22 7 11 2	14% 44% 14% 22% 4%
	Educational Implication	Potential ragers should be identified and provide counseling in order to prevent ragging		



S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
26	Strict implementation of attendance rules for senior students will prevent ragging	Strongly Agree	10	20%
		Agree	13	26%
		Undecided	7	14%
		Disagree	16	32%
		Strongly Disagree	4	8%
	Educational Implication	There should be strict implementation of attendance rules for senior students which will prevent ragging		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
27	Authorities consider ragging as a disciplinary issue only at the beginning of the academic session	Strongly Agree	10	20%
		Agree	24	48%
		Undecided	4	8%
		Disagree	12	24%
		Strongly Disagree	0	0%
	Educational Implication	Ragging should not be considered as a disciplinary issue only at the beginning of the academic session rather it should be considered as an issue which impacts the standards of higher education		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
28	Awareness against ragging by the institutions by means of workshop ,posters ,etc. are adequate to curb it	Strongly Agree	8	16
		Agree	22	44
		Undecided	8	16
		Disagree	12	24
		Strongly Disagree	0	0
	Educational Implication	Students should be made aware about ragging by means of workshop, posters, etc . and it should not be done as a formality rather should be organized with enthusiasm throughout the year		



S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
29	Wardens are successful in reducing ragging incidents in the hostels	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	6 14 6 19 5	12% 28% 12% 38% 10%
	Educational Implication	Wardens should be successful not only in reducing the ragging incidents but curbing it altogether		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
30	Undertaking signed by parents/guardian will reduce frequency of ragging incidents	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	0 23 10 17 0	0% 46% 20% 34% 0%
	Educational Implication	Undertaking should be signed by parents/guardian in order to reduce frequency of ragging incidents		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
31	Ragging scenes in the movies showing it as acceptable need to be censored by the censor board	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	9 20 8 10 3	18% 40% 16% 20% 6%
	Educational Implication	Ragging scenes in the movies need to be censored.		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
32	The scars of ragging can make a student an isolate in the society	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	5 25 6 10 4	10% 50% 12% 20% 8%
	Educational Implication	Ragging should not be practiced because it can isolate a student on the society		



S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
33	Acts of violence such as ragging scar the mind	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	11 20 10 6 3	22% 40% 20% 12% 6%
	Educational Implication	The act of violence such as ragging should not be practiced as it scars the mind		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
34	Sensitization against ragging at school stage shall help to curb ragging in higher education	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	6 30 4 7 3	12% 60% 8% 14% 6%
	Educational Implication	Students should be sensitized against ragging at school stage which will help to curb ragging in higher education		

S.N	Statement	Category	F	P
35	Ragging is essential at entry in an institution for healthy relationship between seniors and freshers	Strongly Agree Agree Undecided Disagree Strongly Disagree	7 19 7 13 4	14% 38% 14% 26% 8%
	Educational Implication	Ragging should not be considered essential at entry in an institution for healthy relationship between seniors and freshers		

Findings:

1. Ragging has deep psychological impact on the victim which can be stimulated by immense media hype that can make a student an isolate in the society.
2. Ragging scenes in the movies showing it as acceptable need to be censored.
3. Sensitization at school stage shall help to curb ragging in higher education.
4. Strict anti ragging laws has changed the mindset of students



5. Helplines are effective in implementing anti ragging rules more precisely and university administrations are actively concentrating on ragging cases.
6. Strict implementation of attendance rules for senior students will not prevent ragging
7. Frequency of ragging cases can be reduced by signing undertaking by parents/guardian
8. Physical and sexual ragging is no more prevalent. But it requires a special mention here that the difference of opinion is not significant which may depict existence and non existence
9. Awareness against ragging by the institutions by means of workshop, posters ,etc are adequate to curb it.
10. Counseling of potential raggars will prevent ragging

Conclusion

Ragging is a social evil which require change in perspective towards it. Educational institutions are emphasizing more on prohibition rather than its prevention. The result pertaining to the objective of the study reveals that although students are sensitized with respect to ragging but there is lack of sensitivity among them which resulted in the acceptance of ragging in its mild form. It can be concluded by saying more effort is required for "prevention" of ragging rather than its prohibition.

References

Journals

Lane, Debra E. (2008) Teacher, staff and parental perception of the impact of a bullying prevention training programme.

Dissertation Abstracts international , vol.68,no.5,pp1973-A.

Garg, Rajesh.(2009) Ragging :A public health problem in India. Indian Journal of Medical Sciences, vol. 63,no.6,pp263-271

Websites

UGC REGULATIONS ON CURBING THE MENACE OF RAGGING IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ,2009 (under section 26(1) (g)of the University Grants Commissions Act,1956(PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA PARTIII,SECTION 4)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehli>

<http://www.noragging.com/>

Newspaper Article

(2009,May 09) SC for anti ragging panels in all states "*The Indian Express*",p7.

(2011,May20) Root out ragging ,says Prez "*The Times of India*"

(2010,November 15) Ragging cases still rising despite Aman "*Times of India*"p1

(2015, May 30) 1,183 ragging cases,66 FIRs in two years "*Times of India*"