



ANTI – RAGGING POLICY

**WITH EFFECT FROM
1ST SEPTEMBER, 2021**

1. INTRODUCTION:

1.1 *'Merit'* and *'Ethics'* being the core driving values towards turning out professionals of high caliber with strong sense of ethical judgments, social integration of student's population coming from different parts of the country with most diverse cultural and social backgrounds, becomes a matter of prime importance. *'Ragging'* a social menace, as such has no place in academic environment of the University and concerted efforts are required to be in place to prevent its occurrence at any point of time. Hence the need for a balanced *'anti-ragging policy'* to be adopted by the University.

2. OBJECTIVE:

2.1 This policy encourages socialization of students to the academic environment of the Woxsen University, discouraging and preventing any negative acts on parts of senior students, which goes against the basic purpose of socio-academic integration. The *'anti-ragging policy'* adopted by the University therefore is aimed at:

- (a) Creation, development and nurturing a conducive, socio-academic environment within the student population.
- (b) Generating and maintaining a high level of confidence within new entrants and their parents/guardians to perceive that fresh entrants to the University are welcome and provided support, rather than being harassed and intimidated.
- (c) Keeping in place an integrated system to discourage and prevent any negative acts like *'ragging'* by the seniors, which disrupts socio-academic integration of new entrants.
- (d) Prescribing deterrent measures for any violation of the "Anti-Ragging Policy" by way of disciplinary measures.

3. DEFINITIONS:

3.1 For the purpose of this policy the following are defined as under: -

'Hostel' includes the place(s) where students are accommodated through institutional arrangement.

'Ragging' constitutes one or more of any of the following acts:

- (a) a conduct by any student or a group of students whether by words spoken or written or by an act which has the effect of teasing, treating or handling any other student with rudeness;
- (b) indulging in rowdy or undisciplined activities by a student or group of students which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship, physical or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in any other student;
- (c) asking a student to do any act which the student will not carry out in the ordinary course 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 student(s);
- (d) any act by a student that prevents, disrupts or disturbs the regular academic activity of any other student(s);
- (e) exploiting the services of any 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 student by any other student or a group of students;
- (g) any act of physical abuse including all variants of it: 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, posts, social networking posts, e-posts, public insults which would also include deriving perverted pleasure, vicarious or sadistic thrill from actively or passively participating in the discomfiture to a student(s);
- (i) any act that affects the mental health and self-confidence of a student with or without an intent to derive a sadistic pleasure or showing off power, authority or superiority by any student or a group of students over any other student(s);

- (j) 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.

- (k) other punishable ingredients of ragging also include: abetment of ragging; criminal conspiracy to rag; unlawful assembly and rioting while ragging; public nuisance created during ragging; violation of decency and morals through ragging; wrongful restraint; wrongful confinement; use of criminal force; criminal trespass; offences against property; criminal intimidation.

‘Student’ includes any person who is enrolled for any course, whether full time or part time with the University. This also includes research associates/scholars or a visitors, and/ or repeaters.

‘University’ means the Woxsen University, Hyderabad and all its Schools.

4. PREVENTIVE ASPECTS OF RAGGING

4.1 Systemized Efforts for Socio-Academic Integration of New Entrants.

(a) Address by the Competent Authorities of the Institute.

The Vice President, Vice Chancellor, Deans, or other concerned official(s) during their address/discussions to/with parents/guardians, admission aspirants/ fresh entrants/ students at the time of counselling meets, new batch induction on registration, batch inaugurals and other such occasions, should invariably assure the students and parents about full protection and support against any attempts of ragging by seniors while briefly introducing the *‘Anti Ragging Policy’* of the University. The efforts during such meets be directed towards achieving socio- academic integration of new entrants with the specific merit-oriented environment of mutuality and trust of the University.

(b) New batch inaugurals

The Vice President, Vice Chancellor, Deans and faculty members, during new batch inaugurals may provide to the students, the guidelines on expected behavioral norms wherein a mention to the Anti ragging policy may be made.

(c) Welcome Party for New Entrants

Senior students shall be encouraged to organize a *“Welcome Party”* for new entrants. For the said purpose an organizing committee may be constituted comprising of selected senior students of

which, a senior faculty member will be the Ex-Officio-Chairman cum Patron. The Chairperson - Student Affairs and faculty members, to the extent possible, should participate in such a party.

(d) Mentoring Cells

‘Mentoring Cell’ shall function under the guidance of a Senior Faculty and in direct supervision of the ‘Chairman, Student Affairs’. Such a cell would be manned by senior students. There should be one senior student mentor for a specified group of 10 junior students. Membership to the ‘mentoring cell’ by senior students would be on voluntary basis by inviting applications and nominating membership on year-to-year basis.

The senior student mentor will also monitor ‘Psychological Behaviour/ behavioral aberration of new students. If any abnormal behaviour or environmental adjustment problem observed, the same shall be reported to the ‘Chairman, Student Affairs’.

(e) Social, Cultural, Sports Activities

The membership of all student clubs and committees will be coordinated on the lines of this (proposed anti-ragging) policy. The induction process to all students’ clubs and committees will be organized in line with the proposed anti – ragging policy.

(f) Watch and Ward arrangements

The Institute has identified following vulnerable locations

- (i) Hostel blocks and mess,
- (ii) Vacant classrooms.
- (iii) Auditorium
- (iv) Canteen,
- (v) Playground / Gymnasium
- (vi) Student activity centers,
- (vii) Favorite joints of students in the vicinity.

All concerned are to keep a constant vigil and watch at such locations including monitoring of the atmosphere and the environment at eating ‘Joints’ (Canteens, Mess etc.), Hostel / accommodations, where students are accommodated.

These areas are needed to be carefully guarded if required by posting security personnel.

4.2 Wide – dissemination of Anti-Ragging Policy Prospectus and Admission forms

- (i) All prospectuses shall include a specific caution that “ragging is banned in the University, and anyone found indulging in ragging, is likely to be punished appropriately which may include expulsion from the University.”
- (ii) All students at the University are required to sign an anti-ragging declaration forms (Annexure I and II) at the time of admission to the institute.

Erection of Posters

Bridge may put up posters in prominent places within the campus to exhort students to prevent, or not to indulge in ragging, also mentioning the names of the officials and their contact numbers, to be contacted in case of “ragging”. The same needs to be displayed on the website of the University.

5. MONITORING ASPECTS OF RAGGING

5.1 Anti-Ragging Surveys

Anonymous random surveys, across first year students be carried out every fortnight, during first three months, at all the constituents of the University, to verify and check, whether the campus is indeed free from ‘ragging’.

5.2 Anti – Ragging Committee (ARC) at the Institute Level

An Anti – Ragging Committee (ARC) should be constituted at Institute level to monitor the various aspects related to menace of ragging. The members of this committee can be nominated by the Vice Chancellor (of which one must be necessarily a female member). The ARC shall have representatives of faculty members, students belonging to the fresher’s category as well as seniors and non-teaching staff as other members in order to carry out the compliance of this policy across the whole University along with the way the same are dealt with.

5.3 Anti-Ragging Squad

The Anti-Ragging Squad shall be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor with such representation as considered necessary and shall consist of members belonging to the various sections of the campus community. The squad shall have vigil, oversight, and patrolling functions. It shall be kept mobile, alert and active at all times and shall be empowered to inspect places of potential ragging and make surprise raids on hostels and other hot spots. The squad shall investigate incidents of ragging and make recommendations to the Anti-Ragging Committee and shall work under the overall guidance of the said Committee.

6. PROCEDURAL AND PUNITIVE ASPECTS OF “RAGGING”

6.1 First Information Person (FIP)

- (a) ‘First Information Person (FIP)’ would be nominated by the University at beginning of each Academic Year. The FIP would provide first instance intervention in case of any complaint of “ragging”.
- (b) FIP will also need to co-ordinate the preventive aspects of ragging, under guidance of the **Chairperson, ARC** aiming to create a “ragging free environment”
- (c) FIP will be responsible for taking steps to ensure that cases of “ragging” within the University are brought to the notice of the **Chairperson, ARC** as soon as possible.
- (d) FIP is empowered to deal with informal complaints of “ragging” and/or take Suo- moto cognizance of any such incident.

6.2 Ragging Reporting Procedure

- (a) If any individual believes that he or she has been subjected to ‘ragging’ or has knowledge of any such incident, such person (or FIP, who may have assisted the complainants or those, who have otherwise observed / known about “ragging”) shall have option to file a complaint with the **Chairperson, ARC**. This may be done in writing or orally. Written complaint is preferable.
- (b) FIP or member/s of the **ARC** will also be available to discuss any concerns exhibited by any student or a group of students, about ragging.
- (c) All formal/Informal complaints of “ragging” may be made to the FIP within the constituent unit or directly to **Chairperson, ARC** as stated above.

6.3 ARC as Enquiry Committee

ARC will investigate all reported cases of ragging, in such a way, so as to maintain confidentiality to the extent practicable under the circumstances. The investigations should start maximum within three (03) days of reporting the incident and reports finalized by the ARC pinpointing the involvement of the accused along with recommendations relating to the punishment will be submitted to the competent authority maximum within a period of four (04) weeks. In exceptional circumstances, the Chairperson ARC may grant extension to the time limit under information to the complainant and the accused.

6.4 Process of Enquiry

The process of enquiry should be such to ensure that principles of natural justice are adhered to. Details of the process would be identical as in the case of 'Sexual Harassment Policy' adopted by the University. If the ragging also includes an element of sexual harassment, then in that case both committees i.e., ARC and Sexual Harassment committee will look into the matter independently of each other.

6.5 Punishment / Penalties for 'ragging'

Based on the report of enquiry submitted by the ARC, the Chairperson of ARC will recommend to the competent authority any one or any combination of the punishment/(s) listed below or any other kind of punishment, which she/he may consider to be appropriate.

- (a) Withholding scholarships or other benefits
- (b) Debarring from representation of events.
- (c) Withholding results
- (d) Expulsion from University.
- (e) Debarring from examination/s.
- (f) Suspension from the University or class for a limited period.
- (g) Fine ranging between Rs.25,000/- and Rs. 1,00,000/- along with public apology
- (h) Prosecuting for criminal offence.
- (i) Filing FIR with the local police
- (j) Cancellation of admission
- (k) Collective punishment: when the persons committing or abetting the crime of ragging is not identified, the committee shall resort to collective punishment.

6.6 Appeal

Appeal with regards to any action taken against the accused at any level and / or against the punishment awarded under this policy, shall lie with the Vice Chancellor of the University, which should be filed within a period of two weeks from such an action or award of punishment.

7. SAVING AND REPEAL CLAUSE

Vice Chancellor of the University will possess the sole authority for any interpretation, modification, or amendment to the policy depending upon the need from time to time. She/He will also possess powers to exercise her/his discretion with respect to any or all the clauses of this policy.

ANNEXURE –I

AFFIDAVIT BY STUDENT

I,..... Registration No..... Year..... Batch
..... having been admitted to Woxsen University, Hyderabad, have received a copy of the University’s anti-ragging policy. I had carefully read and fully understood the provisions contained in the said policy.

I have, in particular, perused clause 3 of the policy and am aware as to what constitutes ragging.

I have also, in particulars, perused clause 6 of the policy and am fully aware of the penal and administrative action that is liable to be taken against me in case I am found guilty of or abetting ragging, actively or passively, or being part of a conspiracy to promote ragging.

I hereby solemnly aver and undertake that

- (a) I shall not indulge in any behavior or act that may be constituted as ragging under clause 3 of the policy.
- (b) I shall not participate in or abet or propagate through any act of commission or commission that may be constituted as ragging under clause 3 of the policy.

I hereby affirm that, if found guilty of ragging, I am liable to punishment according to clause 6 of the policy, without prejudice to any other criminal action that may be taken against me under any penal law or any law for the time being in force.

I hereby declare that I have not been expelled or debarred from admission in any institution in the country on account of being found guilty of, abetting or being part of a conspiracy to promote, ragging; and further affirm that, in case the declaration is found to be untrue, I am aware that my admission is liable to be cancelled.

Declared thisday ofmonth of..... year

SIGNATURE OF DEPONENT

NAME.....

VERIFICATION

Verified that the contents of this affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and no part of the affidavit is false and nothing has been concealed or misstated therein.

Verified aton this the day ofmonth of.....year.....

SIGNATURE OF DEPONENT

Solemnly affirmed and signed in my presence on this theday of month of..... year after reading the contents of this affidavit.

OATH COMMISSIONER

ANNEXURE –II

AFFIDAVIT BY PARENT/GUARDIAN

I, Mr./Mrs.....declare that, my ward Mr/Ms.....
..... enrolled in programme with Registration No.....
Year.....and Batch..... having been admitted to Woxsen University, Hyderabad, have received a copy of the University’s anti – ragging policy and had carefully read and fully understood the provisions contained in the said policy.

I have, in particular, perused clause 3 of the policy and am aware as to what constitutes ragging.

I have also, in particulars, perused clause 6 of the policy and am fully aware of the penal and administrative action that is liable to be taken against my ward in case he/she is found guilty of or abetting ragging, actively or passively, or being part of a conspiracy to promote ragging.

I hereby solemnly aver and undertake that

- a) My ward will not indulge in any behavior or act that may be constituted as ragging under clause 3 of the Regulations.
- b) My ward will not participate in or abets or propagates through any act of commission or commission that may be constituted as ragging under clause 3 of the Regulations.

I hereby affirm that, if found guilty of ragging, my ward is liable to punishment according to clause 6 of the Regulations, without prejudice to any other criminal action that may be taken against my ward under any penal law or any law for the time being in force.

I hereby declare that my ward has not been expelled or debarred from admission in any institution in the country on account of being found guilty of, abetting or being part of a conspiracy to promote, ragging; and further affirm that, in case the declaration is found to be untrue, the admission of my ward is liable to be cancelled.

Declared thisday ofmonth ofyear

SIGNATURE OF DEPONENT

NAME.....

VERIFICATION

Verified that the contents of this affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and no part of the affidavit is false and nothing has been concealed or misstated therein.

Verified aton this the day ofmonth of.....year.....

SIGNATURE OF DEPONENT

Solemnly affirmed and signed in my presence on this theday of month of..... year after reading the contents of this affidavit.

OATH COMMISSIONER