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SPEED POST

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
University Grants Commission

(मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India)

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D.O.No.F.1-15/2009(ARC)pt.III

13th November, 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its order dated 08.05.2009 in Civil Appeal 887 of 2009 in the matter of University of Kerala versus Council, Principals', Colleges, Kerala and Others, constituted a four members committee of mental health and public health professionals with the following terms of reference.

- i. To ascertain the reasons and circumstances under which senior students resort to ragging;
- ii. To ascertain the psychological impact of ragging on students;
- iii. To assess and quantify the impact of ragging and indiscipline on the standard of education in an institution and relate it to the existing procedures used by MCI, UGC and other regulatory bodies to assess the suitability of an institution for recognition;
- iv. To recommend urgent and mandatory mental health measures to be implemented in, and practiced by school, colleges, and all educational and vocational institutions, so as to curb ragging.

The four members committee has since submitted its Report entitled "Psychosocial Study of Ragging in Selected Educational Institutions in India" to the UGC. The report has been uploaded on the UGC website and may be accessed through the link http://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/7661310_Psychosocial-Study-of-Ragging.pdf. The recommendations of the study are enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

The important recommendations which call for an urgent action on the part of the higher education institutions are as follows:

- (1) The higher education institutions should organize welcome and orientation programmes at the beginning of every academic session involving the students through which a clear message shall be sent regarding acceptable and unacceptable behaviours. This must include zero tolerance to ragging, sexual harassment and discrimination based on caste, religion, ethnicity etc.
- (2) Apart from installation of CCTV cameras, a proper surveillance mechanism consisting of a human system of wardens, mentors etc. shall be institutionalized, wherein they should be in regular touch with the students and promote their inclusion in activities such as games, sports and extra-curricular activities etc. in the hostels.
- (3) A clear Standard Operating Procedure shall be laid down for dealing with the cases of ragging. The students should be made aware of these rules as well as the procedure for filing a complaint, who to approach and their contact information and the procedure that will be followed by the HEI, with assurance of anonymity of complaint.

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- (1) Psychosocial Support and counselling should be offered to victims as well as perpetrators so that the potential for cyclical abuse is neutralized. The engagement of counsellor's with the students could also be in the form of sensitization/training modules on power and inequalities, prejudice, discrimination, exclusion, harassment and violence, using creative methods such as drama, art, films, and other media.
- (2) The institutions must appreciate the huge diversities in the institution in terms of ethnicity, language, religion, sexuality etc. and effectively address the diversity related concerns by assessing and monitoring the social climate of institutions through regular surveys of students and staff.
- (3) The higher education institutions must provide an environment where the students learn the values of democratic, mutually respectful relationships, non-violent conflict resolution, autonomous and critical thinking, compassion and caring, respect for differences, fairness and so on. This can be done by holding programmes and activities that foster civic engagement and responsibility, critical reflection on social issues and deliberation on values.

You are requested to implement these recommendations and ensure a ragging free campus and create an institutional climate which is supportive and fair, with faculty who are attuned and interested in student development, that will become the foundation of a dynamic culture that is just, progressive and open to change towards an egalitarian society.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely



(P. K. Thakur)

Encl: As above.

**The Vice-Chancellor
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