

CAN WE ACHIEVE A RAGGING FREE COLLEGE ENVIRONMENT?



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A. POSSIBLE REASONS WHY RAGGING IS RAMPANT

R1. Some people are under peer pressure to do the ragging but they feel inside that they are not doing good thing. These people do ragging only when they are in a group. When they are single they behave/talk to juniors nicely.

R2. For some people it is simply a fashion and don't know how to come out of it.

R3. Some people simple don't know how to welcome a new person and tend to take the introduction as if it is their right. Usually, they don't know the limits after which the other person starts feeling bad/humiliated

R4. Some people are simply in a helpless situation and want to enjoy by showing others small.

B. SOME SOLUTIONS:

In my opinion these are the 4 major reasons (there could be more) and we need to address all these problems to create a ragging free environment.

People do all the activities in any of the 3 ways:

- First is the activity which they don't like, but are forced to do because of peer pressure (i.e., R1). Surely they are not happy by doing it.

- Second is the activity which they like, however, they are not bothered whether the other person is happy or unhappy (i.e. R2). Reasons R3 and R4 are there simply because people do not understand how to respect people. It is the lack of understanding of the other persons' situation.

- Third is the activity which they like and at the same time other members involved in it are also happy. This is the activity which everybody intends to do but they lack competence. To increase the understanding about this and to create an atmosphere where people strive to increase their competence, IIIT Hyderabad introduced a unique way of addressing this issue by focusing students attention on what they are and what they want to become. The name of this activity is Jeevan Vidya.

As soon as students enter the college environment, they are introduced to one week workshop on jeevan vidya and followed by human values group discussion weekly 2 hours. This has made a major impact on our students and ragging activity has come down to minimum. During this course of jeevan vidya and human values, students are motivated to think about what problems they are facing at present and what are the possible solutions.

Value Education Through Jeevan Vidya : Need, Efforts & Achievements

Another activity we started was mentorial body:

This body consists of student volunteers from 2nd, 3rd and 4th year. These are the students who are exposed to one or more sessions of jeevan vidya earlier. 10 to 15 new students are assigned to each mentor group; essentially each group is headed by a faculty member. All the problems are addressed locally under the supervision of faculty mentor.

शिविर में आने से पूर्व मेरी यह धारणा थी कि किसी भी आदमी की पर्सनैलिटी उसके रंग, रूप, बनावट आदि में समाहित है । परन्तु यहाँ आने के पश्चात मेरी यह धारणा मन की शुद्धता में परिणत हो गई अर्थात् निश्चित रूप से कह सकता हूँ कि मैं अब किसी भी व्यक्ति को उसके मन से पहचानने की कोशिश करूँगा । दूसरा मेरे में बड़ा परिवर्तन, मेरे आत्मविश्वास का उत्पन्न होना है ।

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If faculty members create an environment where students are free to discuss about their concerns, I feel that it is a great sign towards development. Simply by creating a rule to stop ragging may not go a long way because hierarchy is always bombarding lower cadre people (citizens) with just what is not good. However, it failed to create an environment where people discuss what is good, how to become good. We need not think that it is upbringing in which they learn all these things. Education field has tremendous power in changing the thinking of generations on-going and generations to come. Teacher has great responsibility to play.

Jeevan Vidya is an activity where people can get solutions for problems arising due to human relations.