



PRESS RELEASE

CR2008/07-13, July 13, 2008

CURE Launches Song & Video to Combat Rising Menace of Ragging

CURE Press Release

Continuing its seven year long battle, CURE has come up with another first: a song and video on ragging. Being the first organization to take a stand against ragging, CURE has done several campaigns including seminars, newsletters, slogan stickers, observing the No Ragging Day (October, 11) and working as a consultant body to the Raghavan Committee of the Govt. of India. The video is available online at www.noragging.com/video

The USP of the song and video is not only that it is the first of its kind on ragging, but the lyrics of the song, the composition, singing and the design of video have all been done beautifully by first year students. A four minute video with a hummable tune, visuals full of youthfulness and hardcore facts brought tears to the eyes of many who saw the first-cut.

This latest addition, which Varun (CURE Co-founder) claims, will take the campaign against ragging to a new dimension. He says “There is absolutely no audio-visual content to sensitize the youth against ragging. The campaigns till now have been preachy while the youth of today do not like to take orders. All these warnings and threat of punishment do not work. They want to know ‘why’ they should not indulge in ragging. This is what the video does in a beautiful and convincing way”.

Varun’s claim is based on hard facts and detailed research work. When CURE analyzed the data of the last 5 years and compared it to the statistics after the Raghavan Committee recommendations, it was startled that ragging related deaths had doubled. This questions the steps taken by the government & regulatory bodies through their multi-crore campaign to combat ragging. It is clear that the government campaign had failed to strike the emotional chord with the students.

In 2007-08, 89 cases of severe ragging have been reported, which is an increase of more than two times from last year. There were 11 deaths due to ragging and another 5 attempted suicides. Out of these, 21% cases were those of sexual abuse, 43% led to physical injury (half of these led to hospitalization), while the rest were those of verbal abuse. In 50% cases, police had intervened.

A comparison benchmark (the statistics of the last 5 years) reveals that nothing has changed after last year judgment and steps. A total of 230 cases have been reported by the English media. There are total 28 reported deaths due to ragging, 10 cases of attempted suicide and 14 students left college due to ragging. One-fourth of these cases were those of sexual abuse, another one-fourth involved severe physical injury, while 15% cases involved drug and



PRESS RELEASE

CR2008/07-13, July 13, 2008

financial abuse (for other cases, the details were not available). 52 cases lead to serious law and order problems on campus including strikes, group clashes, clashes with police/admin, etc. West Bengal (30 cases), Uttar Pradesh (27 cases), Andhra Pradesh (25 cases) were worst hit reporting maximum number of ragging cases. In around 54% cases, police intervention was sought. 63% of these incidents took place in hostels.

| Statistics | Academic Session 2007-08 (Post Supreme Court Order) | Annual Average over last 5 years (03-08) | Remark |
|---------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Number of cases | 89 | 46 | <i>Doubled</i> |
| Number of deaths | 11 | 5.6 (average) | <i>Doubled (SIGNIFICANT)</i> |
| Form of ragging | 21% Sexual 43% Physical | 25% Sexual 44% Physical | No change |
| Place of ragging | Engineering: 31% Medical: 17% Others: 52% | Engineering: 32% Medical: 17% Others: 51% | No change |
| Police Intervention | 50% Cases | 54% Cases | No change |

The table shows that the ragging incidents have increased by twice in 07-08 as compared to the last 5 years. This could be due to reporting bias, however the number of deaths have also doubled. This data is significant since there is lower chance of reporting bias in deaths. All other statistics remain same showing that no significant change has happened after the Supreme Court Order 2007.

About CURE

Coalition to Uproot Ragging from Education (CURE), founded in 2001, is a non-profit organisation dedicated solely towards the elimination of ragging and promotion of more positive ways of interaction among seniors and freshers in Indian universities.

For More Information:

Harsh Agarwal (harsh.agarwal@noragging.com), +91-98730-51418

Varun Aggarwal (varun.aggarwal@noragging.com), +91-98918-87559

Mohit Garg (mohit.garg@noragging.com), +91-99716-06116