



Government of Maharashtra

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Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): Prevention and Prohibition of Ragging

Institution: Government Medical College (GMC), Alibag

Governing Guidelines: NMC Regulations 2021, UGC Regulations 2009, Maharashtra Prohibition of Ragging Act 1999 (MUHS)

1. Objective and Scope

Government Medical College, Alibag, welcomes students from diverse regions, religions, and socioeconomic backgrounds. The objective of this SOP is to ensure a safe, inclusive, and strictly ragging-free environment. Under NMC and MUHS directives, the institution enforces a **Zero Tolerance Policy** toward any physical, mental, or psychological harassment.

2. Definition of Ragging

As per NMC Regulations 2021 and the Maharashtra Prohibition of Ragging Act 1999, ragging includes but is not limited to:

- **Physical or Psychological Harm:** Any rowdy or undisciplined activity causing annoyance, hardship, physical/psychological harm, or fear in a fresher or junior student.
- **Discriminatory Harassment:** Any act of abuse, bullying, or exclusion targeted at another student on the grounds of region, linguistic identity, caste, religion, color, race, economic background, gender, or sexual orientation.
- **Violation of Dignity:** Asking a student to perform any act that causes shame, embarrassment, or undermines human dignity.

3. Preventive Measures

To protect incoming students and foster healthy senior-junior interactions, GMC Alibag mandates the following proactive steps:

- **Mandatory Undertakings:** All students and their parents/guardians must submit anti-ragging affidavits at the time of admission and hostel allocation.
- **Year Wise Separate Accommodations:** The accommodation of freshers preferably done in separate hostel.
- **Mentoring Cell:** A dedicated Mentoring Committee will be established, assigning a senior faculty mentor to every small group of freshers to guide them through their transition.

- **Campus Surveillance:** Anti-Ragging Squads will conduct surprise patrols in vulnerable areas, including hostels, canteens, common rooms, and transport facilities.

4. Complaint Redressal Procedure

When a ragging incident is reported, the institution must act swiftly to protect the victim and hold perpetrators accountable. Under the Maharashtra Prohibition of Ragging Act, the Head of the Institution must initiate action within 7 days of receiving a written complaint, failing which they may be deemed to have abetted the offence.

1.Immediate Reporting:Available 24/7.

The victim, a peer, or a parent contacts the Anti-Ragging Helpline (1800-180-5522), a faculty member, the Hostel Warden, or the designated Nodal Officer at GMC Alibag.

2.Preliminary Protection & Notification:

The Head of the Institution (Dean/Principal) is notified immediately. The victim is provided with immediate physical protection, psychological counseling, or medical aid if required.

3.Squad Investigation:Must be initiated within 24 hours.

The Anti-Ragging Squad conducts a discreet, on-the-ground investigation to establish prima facie evidence and submits a preliminary report to the Anti-Ragging Committee (ARC).

4.Formal Inquiry & Action:Strict 7-day timeline.

The ARC conducts a formal hearing. If the complaint is found valid, the institution will immediately suspend the accused and file a First Information Report (FIR) with the local Alibag Police under the Maharashtra Prohibition of Ragging Act 1999.

5. Punitive Actions (Institutional & Legal)

Depending on the nature and gravity of the offense, students found guilty will face strict disciplinary actions as mandated by the NMC and the State of Maharashtra.

Level	Offense Gravity	Punitive Action
Level 1	Verbal abuse, teasing, forcing errands	Suspension from attending classes and academic privileges; withholding scholarships.
Level 2	Psychological harassment, discriminatory abuse	Expulsion from the hostel; debarring from appearing in any tests/examinations.
Level 3	Physical violence, extreme humiliation	Cancellation of admission and rustication from the institution.

Level	Offense Gravity	Punitive Action
Legal	Any confirmed ragging offense	Up to 2 years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of ₹10,000 under the Maharashtra Prohibition of Ragging Act 1999.

6. Student Support and Diversity Mandate

As an expert student welfare office, we recognize that students arriving in Alibag from different parts of India may experience culture shock or language barriers.

- **Language Support:** Freshers struggling with the local language or English will be provided with academic and peer support.
- **Anonymous Dropboxes:** Placed strategically across the GMC Alibag campus for students who fear retaliation when reporting.
- **Sensitization Workshops:** Mandatory orientation sessions for senior students highlighting the legal, professional, and ethical consequences of ragging, emphasizing respect for diversity in economic strata and religious backgrounds.


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