

Freshers' interaction @ NIFT Shillong: do's and don'ts

What is ragging? Anything that may cause a fresher physical or mental discomfort due to an act of a senior. In particular,

- **Physical abuse**, for example, forcing to eat, drink or smoke, forcing to dress or undress.
- **Verbal abuse**, for example swear words and phrases, direct or indirect derogatory references to the person's appearance, attire, religion, caste, family or chosen field of study.
- **Forced activity**, for example
 - Chores for seniors e.g. copying notes, cleaning rooms etc.
 - Attending extra-curricular events to cheer hostel teams.
 - Missing classes. Not being allowed to study.
 - Staying awake late or getting up at unreasonable times.
 - Singing or dancing or performing in any other way.
 - Using foul language or shouting or cheering loudly.
 - Misbehaving with strangers, particularly women.
 - Reading or browsing porno-graphic/objectionable material.
- **Lifestyle restrictions**, for example
 - Not allowing certain kinds of clothing or accessories e.g. jeans, belts etc.
 - Enforcing rules regarding shaving or oiling hair. Forcing certain kinds of dress.
 - Restricting access to parts of the hostel e.g. common room.
 - Requiring certain modes of address i.e. seniors should be called Sir or Ma'am.
 - Requiring a particular waking time.
- **Conversational mind-games**. Particular forms of interaction in which a senior or set of seniors manipulates the conversation so as to humiliate the first year student or make him/her feel stupid or insecure or generally threatened.
- Any interaction between freshers and seniors where the seniors are friendly, welcoming and non-aggressive is encouraged.
- Seniors may solicit participation in clubs and other activities by announcing promotional events at well designated times and places. However, no fresher should be forced to attend. Participation by freshers can only be voluntary.
- Seniors are requested to maintain self-imposed discipline and restraint. In particular, they should be careful about:
 - Any "interaction" outside public areas.

- Visiting freshers' rooms during the interaction period, or inviting freshers to their rooms.
- Forcing freshers to sing, dance or perform in any way under the guise of "talent search" or "interaction".
- Being overenthusiastic about making freshers participate in any activities.

The Supreme Court of India has observed that **enrolment in academic pursuits or a campus life should not immunize any adult citizen from the penal provisions of the laws of the land.** According to the directions of the Supreme Court if any instance of ragging is brought to the notice of the administration or the faculty, it is legally binding on us to report the matter to the Shillong Police.

Please contact the SDAC and center coordinators (contact information at NIFT Shillong website) to report any ragging. If you want to leave an anonymous note about ragging that you have witnessed or experienced, please do so at the drop-boxes available in the administration area.