

**ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION
New Delhi**

NOTIFICATION

Dated 01-07-2009

Sub: Prevention and prohibition of Ragging in technical Institutions, Universities including Deemed to be Universities imparting technical education.

F.No.37-3/Legal/AICTE/2009 – In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 23 read with Section 10 (b), (g), (p) and (q) of AICTE Act, 1987, the All India Council for Technical Education, hereby makes the following Regulations:-

1. Short title and commencement:-

- (i) These Regulations may be called the All India Council for Technical Education (Prevention and Prohibition of Ragging in Technical Institutions, Universities including Deemed to be Universities imparting technical education) Regulations 2009.
- (ii) They shall come into force on the date of the notification.

2. Objectives:-

In view of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in SLP No. 24295 of 2006 dated 16-05-2007 and in Civil Appeal number 887 of 2009, dated 08-05-2009 to prohibit, prevent and eliminate the scourge of ragging including any conduct by any student or students whether by words spoken or written or by an act which has the effect of teasing, treating or handling with rudeness a fresher or any other student, or indulging in rowdy or undisciplined activities by any student or students which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in any fresher or any other student or asking any student to do any act which such student will not in the ordinary course do and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame, or torment or embarrassment so as to adversely affect the physique or psyche of such fresher or any other student, with or without an intent to derive a sadistic pleasure or showing off power, authority or superiority by a student over any fresher or any other student, in all higher education institutions in the country, and thereby, to provide for the healthy development, physically and psychologically, of all students, the All India Council for Technical Education,(AICTE) brings forth these Regulations.

3. Definitions:-

- (a) **“Act”** means the All India Council for Technical Education Act 1987 (52 of 1987);
- (b) **“Technical Institution”** means an institution of Government, Government Aided and Private (self financing) conducting the courses/programmes in the field of technical education, training and research in Engineering, Technology including MCA, Architecture, Town Planning, Management, Pharmacy, Hotel Management & Catering Technology, Applied Arts & Crafts and such other programmes and areas as notified by the Council from time to time;
- (c) **“University”** means a University defined under clause (f) of section 2 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 and includes an institution deemed to be a University under section 3 of that Act.
- (d) **“Academic year”** means the period from the commencement of admission of students in any course of study in the institution up to the completion of academic requirements for that particular year.
- (e) **“Head of the institution”** means the Vice-Chancellor in case of a university or a deemed to be university, the Principal or the Director or such other designation as the executive head of the institution or the college is referred.
- (f) **“Fresher”** means a student who has been admitted to an institution and who is undergoing his/her first year of study in such institution.
- (g) Words and expressions used and not defined herein but defined in the Act or in the General Clauses Act, 1887, shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Act or in the General Clauses Act, 1887, as the case may be. And
- (h) All other words and expressions used herein and not defined but defined in the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987 (52 of 1987), shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the said Act;

4 **What constitutes Ragging:** - Ragging constitutes one or more of any of the following acts:

- a. any conduct by any student or students whether by words spoken or written or by an act which has the effect of teasing, treating or handling with rudeness a fresher or any other student;
- b. indulging in rowdy or undisciplined activities by any student or students which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship, physical or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in any fresher or any other student;
- c. asking any student to do any act which such student will not in the ordinary course do and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame, or torment or embarrassment so as to adversely affect the physique or psyche of such fresher or any other student;
- d. any act by a senior student that prevents, disrupts or disturbs the regular academic activity of any other student or a fresher;
- e. exploiting the services of a fresher or any other student for completing the academic tasks assigned to an individual or a group of students.
- f. any act of financial extortion or forceful expenditure burden put on a fresher or any other student by students;
- g. any act of physical abuse including all variants of it: sexual abuse, homosexual assaults, stripping, forcing obscene and lewd acts, gestures, causing bodily harm or any other danger to health or person;
- h. any act or abuse by spoken words, emails, posts, public insults which would also include deriving perverted pleasure, vicarious or sadistic thrill from actively or passively participating in the discomfiture to fresher or any other student;
- i. any act that affects the mental health and self-confidence of a fresher or any other student with or without an intent to derive a sadistic pleasure or showing off power, authority or superiority by a student over any fresher or any other student.

5. Measures for prevention of ragging:-

It shall be mandatory for every technical Institution, University, deemed to be University imparting technical education to take following measures for prevention of ragging at such institutions.

1. The advertisement issued for admission by a technical institution, University including Deemed to be University concerned and/or the admission authority/ affiliating University/State Govt./UT/Central Govt. as the case may be, shall clearly mention that ragging is totally banned and anyone found guilty of ragging and/or abetting ragging is liable to be punished.
2. The 'Prospectus' and other admission related documents shall contain directions of the Supreme Court Affiliating University/admission Authority/State Govt/Central Govt. shall make it mandatory for the institutions under their jurisdiction to compulsorily incorporate such information in their 'Prospectus'. These Regulations shall be printed in the brochure of admission/instruction booklet for candidates.
3. The application form for admission/enrolment shall have a printed affidavit, preferably both in English and Hindi and/or in one of the regional languages. The affidavit should be filled up and signed by the candidate to the effect that he/she is aware of the law regarding prohibition of ragging as well as the punishments, and that he/she, if found guilty of the offence of ragging and/or abetting ragging, is liable to be punished appropriately.
4. The application form shall also contain a printed affidavit, preferably both in English and Hindi and/or in one of the regional languages and the affidavit should be signed by the parent/guardian of the applicant to the effect that he/she is also aware of the law in this regard and agrees to abide by the punishment meted out to his/her ward in case the latter is found guilty of ragging and/or abetting ragging.
5. The application for admission shall be accompanied by a document along with the School Leaving Certificate/Character Certificate which shall include a report on the behavioral pattern of the applicant, so that the institution can thereafter keep intense watch upon the student who has a negative entry in this regard.
6. A student seeking admission to the hostel shall have to submit another affidavit along with his/her application for hostel accommodation that he/she is also aware of the law in this regard and agrees to abide by the punishments meted out if he/she is found guilty of ragging and/or abetting ragging.
7. Every technical institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education shall maintain a proper record of the affidavits obtained to ensure its safe up keep thereof, including digital copies of the affidavits and such digital copy should be made available to the AICTE or to an Agency identified/nominated by AICTE.

8. The AICTE or an Agency identified/nominated for the purpose and affiliating Universities and Directorate of Technical Education of the concerned State Govt./UT shall maintain an appropriate data base of the affidavits in the digital form obtained from every student at the time of admission to the technical institutions, Universities including Deemed to be Universities imparting technical education.
9. Each batch of freshers should be divided into small groups and each such group shall be assigned to a member of staff. Such staff member should interact individually with each member of the group on daily basis to ascertain the problems/difficulties, if any faced by the freshers in the Institution and extend necessary help.
10. Incase of freshers admitted to a Hostel it shall be the responsibility of the teacher incharge of the group to co-ordinate with the warden of the Hostel and to make surprise visits to the rooms in the hostel where the members of the group are lodged. Freshers should be lodged in a separate hostel block wherever possible and where such facilities are not available, the college/institution shall ensure that seniors' access to freshers' accommodation is strictly monitored by wardens, Security Guards and Staff.
11. Every institution should engage or seek the assistance of professional counselors at the time of admissions to counsel 'freshers' in order to prepare them for the life ahead, particularly for adjusting to the life in hostels. At the commencement of the academic session the Head of the technical Institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education shall convene and address a meeting of various functionaries/agencies, like Wardens, representatives of students, parents/guardians, faculty, district administration including police, to discuss the measures to be taken to prevent ragging and steps to be taken to identify the offenders and punish them suitably.
12. Every fresher admitted to the technical Institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education shall be given a printed information booklet detailing when and whom he/she has to turn to for help and guidance for various purposes (including Wardens, Head of the institution, members of the anti-ragging committee, relevant district and police authorities), addresses and telephone numbers of such persons/authorities, etc.
13. The technical institutions, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education through the information booklet mentioned

above shall explain to the new entrants the arrangements for their induction and orientation which promote efficient and effective means of integrating them fully as students.

14. The information booklet mentioned above shall also tell the freshers about their rights as bona fide students and clearly instructing them that they should desist from doing anything against their will even if ordered by the seniors, and that they have nothing to fear as the institution cares for them and shall not tolerate any atrocities against them.
15. The information booklet mentioned above shall contain a calendar of events and activities laid down by the institution to facilitate and complement familiarization of juniors with the academic environment of the institution.
16. To make the community at large and the students in particular aware of the dehumanizing effect of ragging, and the approach of the institution towards those indulging in ragging, big posters (preferably with different colors for the provisions of law, punishments, etc.) shall be prominently displayed on all Notice Boards of all departments, hostels and other buildings as well as at vulnerable places. Some of such posters shall be of permanent nature in certain vulnerable places.
17. The technical Institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education shall request the media to give adequate publicity to the law prohibiting ragging and the negative aspects of ragging and the institutions 's resolve to ban ragging and punish those found guilty without fear or favor.
18. The technical Institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education shall identify, properly illuminate and man all vulnerable locations.
19. The technical Institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education shall tighten security in its premises, especially at the vulnerable places. If necessary, intense policing shall be resorted to at such points at odd hours during the early months of the academic session.
20. The technical Institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education shall utilize the vacation period before the start of the new academic year to launch wide publicity campaign against ragging through posters, information booklets, seminars, street plays, etc.

21. The faculties/departments/units of the technical Institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education shall have induction arrangements (including those which anticipate, identify and plan to meet any special needs of any specific section of students) in place well in advance of the beginning of the academic year with a clear sense of the main aims and objectives of the induction process.
 22. Mobile Phones and other communication devices may be permitted in residential areas including hostels to provide access to the students particularly freshers, to reach out for help from teachers, parents and Institution authorities.
6. **Monitoring mechanism in technical institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education:-**
- a) **Anti-ragging Committee:** Every institution University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education shall constitute a Committee to be known as the Anti-ragging Committee to be nominated and headed by the Head of the Institution, and consisting of representatives of civil and police administration, local media, Non Government Organizations involved in youth activities, representatives of faculty members, representatives of parents, representatives of students belonging to the freshers' category as well as senior students, non-teaching staff; and shall have a diverse mix of membership in terms of level as well as gender.
 - b) It shall be the duty of the Anti-Ragging Committee to ensure compliance with the provisions of these Regulations as well as the provisions of any law for the time being in force concerning ragging; and also to monitor and oversee the performance of the Anti-Ragging Squad in prevention of ragging in the institution.
 - c) **Anti-Ragging Squad:** Every institution University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education shall also constitute a smaller body to be known as the Anti-Ragging Squad to be nominated by the Head of the Institution with such representation as may be considered necessary for maintaining vigil, oversight and patrolling functions and shall remain mobile, alert and active at all times. Provided that the Anti-Ragging Squad shall have representation of various members of the campus community and shall have no outside representation.
 - d) It shall be the duty of the Anti-Ragging Squad to be called upon to make surprise raids on hostels, and other places vulnerable to incidents and having the potential for ragging and shall be empowered to inspect such places.

- e) It shall also be the duty of the Anti-Ragging Squad to conduct an on-the-spot enquiry into any incidents of ragging referred to it by the Head of the institution or any member of the faculty or any member of the staff or any student or any parent or guardian or any employee of a service provider or by any other person, as the case may be; and the enquiry report along with recommendations shall be submitted to the Anti-Ragging Committee for action. Provided that the Anti-Ragging Squad shall conduct such enquiry observing a fair and transparent procedure and the principles of natural justice and after giving adequate opportunity to the student or students accused of ragging and other witnesses to place before it the facts, documents and views concerning the incidents of ragging, and considerations such other relevant information as may be required.
- f) **Mentoring Cell:** Every institution shall, at the end of each academic year, in order to promote the objectives of these Regulations, constitute a Mentoring Cell consisting of students volunteering to be Mentors for freshers, in the succeeding academic year; and there shall be as many levels or tiers of Mentors as the number of batches in the institution, at the rate of one Mentor for six freshers and one Mentor of a higher level for six Mentors of the lower level.
- g) **Monitoring Cell on Ragging:-** The State Govt./UT and the affiliating University shall set up a Monitoring Cell on Ragging to coordinate with the institutions to monitor the activities of the Anti-Ragging Committees, Squads, and Mentoring Cells, regarding compliance with the instructions on conducting orientation programmes, counseling sessions, etc., and regarding the incidents of ragging, the problem faced by wardens and other officials, etc. This Cell shall also review the efforts made by such institutions to publicize anti-ragging measures, cross-verify the receipt of affidavits from candidates/students and their parents/guardians every year, and shall be the prime mover for initiating action by the University authorities to suitably amend the Statutes or Ordinances or Bye-laws to facilitate the implementation of anti ragging measures at the level of the institution.
- h) The Monitoring Cell shall coordinate with the the institutions, universities including deemed to be universities imparting technical education to achieve the objectives of these Regulations; and the Monitoring Cell shall call for reports from the Heads of institutions in regard to the activities of the Anti-Ragging Committees, Anti-Ragging Squads, and the Mentoring Cells at the institutions, and it shall also keep itself abreast of the decisions of the Anti-Ragging Committees etc.

- i) The Monitoring Cell shall also review the efforts made by institutions to publicize anti-ragging measures, soliciting of affidavits from parents/guardians and from students, each academic year, to abstain from ragging activities or willingness to be penalized for violation; and shall function as the prime mover for initiating action for amending the Statutes or Ordinances or Bye-laws to facilitate the implementation of anti-ragging measures at the level of the institution.

7. Action to be taken against the Principal or the Head of the Institution/Faculty Members/Non-Teaching staff of technical institution, Universities including Deemed to be Universities imparting technical education.

1. The Head of the Institution along with other administrative authorities should take adequate measures for prevention of ragging. Any lapse on the part of these authorities shall make them liable for criminal action for negligence of duty. The technical Institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education should incorporate a clause in their letter of appointment that the Director, Faculty and other administrative Heads should ensure all possible steps for prevention of ragging in the premises of the educational institutions, and that they are liable for action, in case of non-compliance.
2. The Principal or Head of the Institution/Department shall obtain an affidavit from every employee of the Institution including teaching/non-teaching staff, contract labor employed in the premises either for running canteen or as watch and ward staff or for cleaning or maintenance of the building, lawns etc. that he/she would report promptly any case of ragging which comes to his/her notice. A provision shall be made in the service rules for issuing certificates of appreciation to such members of the staff who report ragging which will form part of their service records.
3. Departmental enquiries shall be initiated, in addition to penal consequences against such heads of the Institution/Faculty members/non-teaching staff who display an apathetic or insensitive attitude towards complaints of ragging and would not take timely steps in the prevention of ragging and punishing those who rag.
4. The Principal or the Head of the Institution/Faculty Members/Non-Teaching staff, if found negligent in taking necessary measures for ensuring safety of students and preventing the ragging would be declared unfit for holding any post in any technical institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education.

8. Actions to be taken against students for indulging and abetting ragging in technical institutions Universities including Deemed to be University imparting technical education:-

1. The punishment to be meted out to the persons indulged in ragging has to be exemplary and justifiably harsh to act as a deterrent against recurrence of such incidents.
2. Every single incident of ragging a First Information Report (FIR) must be filed without exception by the institutional authorities with the local police authorities.
3. The Anti-Ragging Committee of the institution shall take an appropriate decision, with regard to punishment or otherwise, depending on the facts of each incident of ragging and nature and gravity of the incident of ragging.
4. a) Depending upon the nature and gravity of the offence as established the possible punishments for those found guilty of ragging at the institution level shall be any one or any combination of the following:-
 - (i) Cancellation of admission
 - (ii) Suspension from attending classes
 - (iii) Withholding/withdrawing scholarship/fellowship and other benefits
 - (iv) Debarring from appearing in any test/examination or other evaluation process
 - (v) Withholding results
 - (vi) Debarring from representing the institution in any regional, national or international meet, tournament, youth festival, etc.
 - (vii) Suspension/expulsion from the hostel
 - (viii) Rustication from the institution for period ranging from 1 to 4 semesters
 - (ix) Expulsion from the institution and consequent debarring from admission to any other institution.
 - (x) Collective punishment: when the persons committing or abetting the crime of ragging are not identified, the institution shall resort to collective punishment as a deterrent to ensure community pressure on the potential raggers.
- b) An appeal against the order of punishment by the Anti-Ragging Committee shall lie,

- i. In case of an order of an institution, affiliated to or constituent part, of the University, to the Vice-Chancellor of the University;
 - ii. In case of an order of a University, to its Chancellor.
 - iii. In case of an institution of national importance created by an Act of Parliament, to the Chairman or Chancellor of the institution, as the case may be.
5. The institutional authorities shall intimate the incidents of ragging occurred in their premises along with actions taken to the Council from time to time.

9 Action to be taken against the technical Institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education which fail to take measures for prevention of ragging:-

1. Role of the concerned technical institutions, Universities including Deemed to be Universities imparting technical education shall be open to scrutiny for the purpose of finding out whether they have taken effective steps for preventing ragging and action taken against provision indulged and/or abetting ragging. The Council shall constitute Committees to inspect technical institutions, Universities including Deemed to be Universities imparting technical education to verify the status of anti ragging measures and to investigate specific instances of ragging and take appropriate action.
2. The technical Institution, University including Deemed to be University imparting technical education should submit an affidavit along with its compliance report submitted to AICTE annually with details of measures taken for prevention of ragging in technical institutions. The Compliance Report should also contain the details of the instances of ragging and action taken against students, and others for indulging and abetting ragging.
3. All Letters of Approval issued by AICTE such as extension of approval letters, letters issued for additional courses/increase in intake and letters issued for new technical institutions, release of grants, letters of approval issued to integrated campus, second shift etc. shall contain a specific clause of prevention of ragging.
4. The AICTE shall, in respect of any institution that fails to take adequate steps to prevent ragging or fails to act in accordance with these Regulations or fails to punish perpetrators or incidents of ragging suitably, take one of more of the following measures, namely;

- i. No admission/Withdrawal of approval granted under section 10(k) of AICTE Act.
- ii. Withholding any grant allocated.
- iii. Declaring the institution ineligible for consideration for any assistance under any of the general or special assistance programmes of the AICTE.
- iv. Informing the general public, including potential candidates for admission, through a notice displayed prominently in the newspapers or other suitable media and posted on the website of the AICTE, declaring that the institution does not possess the minimum academic standards.
- v. Taking such other action within its powers as it may deem fit and impose such other penalties as may be provided in the Act for such duration of time as the institution complies with the provisions of these Regulations.

- 5. As regards the Universities including Deemed to be Universities imparting technical education the actions proposed to be taken such as stopping release of grants, withdrawal of approval/recognition will be sent to University Grants Commission (UGC), Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Govt. of India and the concerned State Govt./UT. The UGC, MHRD Govt. of India, and the State Govt./UT concerned shall initiate immediate action on the recommendations of the Council.

10. Duties and Responsibilities of the All India Council for technical Education:-

- a) All India Council for technical Education, or the Central Government or the agency authorized for the purpose shall establish, fund and operate, a toll-free Anti-Ragging Helpline, operational round the clock, which could be accessed by students in distress owing to ragging related incidents.
- b) Any distress message received at the Anti-Ragging Helpline shall be simultaneously relayed to the Head of the Institution, the Warden of the Hostels, the Nodal Officer of the affiliating University, if the incident reported has taken place in an institution affiliated to a University, the concerned District authorities and if so required, the District Magistrate, and the Superintendent of Police, and shall also be web enabled so as to be in the public domain simultaneously for the media and citizens to access it.
- c) The Head of the institution shall be obliged to act immediately in response to the information received from the Anti-Ragging Helpline as at sub-clause (b) of this clause.

- d) The telephone numbers of the Anti-Ragging Helpline and all the important functionaries in every institution, Heads of institutions, faculty members, members of the anti-ragging committees and anti-ragging squads, district and sub-divisional authorities and state authorities, Wardens of hostels, and other functionaries or authorities where relevant, shall be widely disseminated for access or to seek help in emergencies.
- f) The All India Council for technical Education, the Central Government or the agency authorized for the purpose shall maintain an appropriate data base to be created out of affidavits, affirmed by each student and his/her parents/guardians and stored electronically by the institution; and such database shall also function as a record of ragging complaints received, and the status of the action taken thereon.
- g) The All India Council for technical Education, the Central Government or the agency authorized for the purpose shall make available the database to a non-governmental agency to be nominated by the Central Government, to build confidence in the public and also to provide information of non compliance with these Regulations to the Councils and to such bodies as may be authorized by the All India Council for technical Education/Central Government.

11. The All India Council for technical Education shall take the following regulatory steps, namely;

- a) The All India Council for technical Education shall make it mandatory for the institutions to incorporate in their prospectus, the directions of the Central Government or the State Level Monitoring Committee with regard to prohibition and consequences of ragging, and that non-compliance with these Regulations and directions so provided, shall be considered as lowering of academic standards by the institution, therefore making it liable for appropriate action.
- b) The All India Council for technical Education shall verify that the institutions strictly comply with the requirement of getting the affidavits from the students and their parents/guardians as envisaged under these Regulations.
- c) The All India Council for technical Education shall include a specific condition in the Utilization Certificate, in respect of any financial assistance or grants-in-aid to any institution under any of the general or special schemes of the All India Council for technical Education, that the institution has complied with the anti-ragging measures.

- d) Any incident of ragging in an institution shall adversely affect its accreditation, ranking or grading by National Board of Accreditation or by any other authorised accreditation agencies while assessing the institution for accreditation, ranking or grading purposes.
- e) The All India Council for technical Education shall constitute an Inter-Council Committee, consisting of representatives of the various Councils, the Non-Governmental agency responsible for monitoring the database maintained by the All India Council for technical Education/Central Government and such other bodies in higher education, to coordinate and monitor the anti-ragging measures in institutions across the country and to make recommendations from time to time; and shall meet at least once in six months each year.
- f) The All India Council for technical Education shall institute an Anti-Ragging Cell within the AICTE as an institutional mechanism to provide secretarial support for collection of information and monitoring, and to coordinate with the State Level Monitoring Cells and University Level Committees for effective implementation of anti-ragging measures, and the Cell shall also coordinate with the Non-Governmental agency responsible for monitoring the database maintained by the All India Council for technical Education/central Government.

(Member Secretary)

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**(All India Council for Technical Education)****NOTIFICATION**

New Delhi, the 10th June, 2016

No. F. AICTE/WH/2016/01.—All India Council for Technical Education (Gender Sensitization, Prevention and Prohibition of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students and Redressal of Grievances in Technical Institutions) Regulations, 2016.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 23 (1), Chapter VI of **All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987 (52 of 1987)**, the **All India Council for Technical Education** hereby makes the following regulations, namely:—

1. **Short title, application and commencement.**—(1) these regulations may be called the **All India Council for Technical Education (Gender Sensitization, Prevention and Prohibition of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students and Redressal of Grievances in Technical Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2016.**
 - (2) They shall apply to all technical Institutions in India.
 - (3) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.
2. **Definitions.**—In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires,—
 - (a) “Aggrieved Woman” means in relation to work place, a woman of any age whether employed or not, who alleges to have been subjected to any act of sexual harassment by the respondent;
 - (b) ‘Act’ means the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (14 of 2013);
 - (c) “Campus” means the location or the land on which a Technical Institution (TI) and its related institutional facilities like libraries, laboratories, lecture halls, residences, halls, toilets, student centres, hostels, dining halls, stadiums, parking areas, parks-like settings and other amenities like health centres, canteens, Bank counters, etc., are situated and also includes extended campus and covers within its scope places visited as a student of the TI including transportation provided for the purpose of commuting to and from the institution, the locations outside the institution on field trips, internships, study tours, excursions, short- term placements, places used for camps , cultural festivals, sports meets and such other activities where a person is participating in the capacity of an employee or a student of the TI;
 - (d) “Council” means the **All India Council for Technical Education** established under section 3 (Chapter I of All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987 (52 of 1987) ;
 - (e) “covered individuals” are persons who have engaged in protected activity such as filing a sexual harassment charge, or who are closely associated with an individual who has engaged in protected activity and such person can be an employee or a fellow student or guardian of the offended person;
 - (f) “employee” means a person duly employed by the TI and also trainee, apprentice (or called by any other name), interns, volunteers, teacher assistants, research assistants, whether employed or not, including those involved in field studies, projects, short-visits and camps;
 - (g) “Executive Authority” means the chief executive authority of the TI, by whatever name called, in which the general administration of the TI is vested;
 - (h) “Technical Institution” (TI) means an AICTE approved Institution;
 - (i) “Internal Complaints Committee” (ICC) means Internal Complaints Committee to be constituted by an TI under sub regulation (1) of regulation 4 of these regulations and shall include any duly constituted Body already functioning with the same objective (like the Gender Sensitization Committee Against Sexual Harassment (GSCASH)); Provided that in the latter case the TI shall

ensure that the constitution of such a Body is as required for ICC under these regulations. Provided further that such a Body shall be bound by the provisions of these regulations;

- (j) “protected activity” includes reasonable opposition to a practice believed to violate sexual harassment laws on behalf of oneself or others such as participation in sexual harassment proceedings, cooperating with an internal investigation or alleged sexual harassment practices or acting as a witness in an investigation by an outside agency or in litigation;
- (k) “Sexual harassment” means-
 - (i) An unwanted conduct with sexual undertones which is persistent and which demeans, humiliates or creates a hostile and intimidating environment or is calculated to induce submission by actual or threatened adverse consequences and includes any one or more or all of the following unwelcome acts or behaviour (whether directly or by implication), namely:—
 - (a) Any unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature;
 - (b) Demand or request for sexual favours;
 - (c) Making sexually coloured remarks;
 - (d) Physical contact and advances; or
 - (e) Showing pornography; and
 - (ii) Any one (or more than one or all) of the following circumstances, if it occurs or is present in relation or connected with any behaviour that has explicit or implicit sexual undertones-
 - (a) Implied or explicit promise of preferential treatment as quid pro quo for sexual favours;
 - (b) Implied or explicit threat of detrimental treatment in the conduct of work;
 - (c) Implied or explicit threat about the present or future status of the person concerned;
 - (d) Creating an intimidating offensive or hostile learning environment;
 - (e) Humiliating treatment likely to affect the health, safety dignity or physical integrity of the person concerned;
- (l) “student” means a person duly admitted and pursuing a programme of study either through regular mode or distance mode, including short- term training programmes in a TI:
 Provided that a student who is a participant in any of the activities in a TI other than the TI where such student is enrolled shall be treated as a student of that TI where any incident of sexual harassment takes place against such student;
- (m) “third Party Harassment” refers to a situation where sexual harassment occurs as a result of an act or omission by any third party or outsider, who is not an employee or a student of the TI, but a visitor to the TI in some other capacity or for some other purpose or reason;
- (n) “Victimisation” means any unfavourable treatment meted out to a person with an implicit or explicit intention to obtain sexual favour;
- (o) “Workplace” means the campus of a TI, including-
 - (a) any department, organisation, undertaking, establishment, enterprise, institution, office, branch or unit which is established, owned, controlled or wholly or substantially financed by funds provided directly or indirectly by the appropriate TIs ;
 - (b) Any sports institute, stadium, sports complex or competition or games venue, whether residential or not used for training, sports or other activities relating thereof in TIs;
 - (c) any place visited by the employee arising out of or during the course of employment including transportation provided by the employer for undertaking such journey for study in TIs.

3. Responsibilities of the Technical Institution-

3.1 Every TI shall,-

- (a) Wherever required, appropriately subsume the spirit of the above definitions in its policy and regulations on prevention and prohibition of sexual harassment against the women employees and the students, and modify its ordinances and rules in consonance with the requirements of the Act;
- (b) Publicly notify the provisions against sexual harassment and ensure their wide- dissemination;
- (c) Organise Training Programmes or as the case may be, workshops for the officers, functionaries, faculty and students, to sensitize them and ensure knowledge and awareness of the rights, entitlements and responsibilities enshrined in the Act and under these regulations;
- (d) Act decisively against all gender based violence perpetrated against employees and students of all sexes recognising that primarily women employees and students and some male students and students of the third gender are vulnerable to many forms of sexual harassment and humiliation and exploitation;
- (e) Publicly commit itself to a zero tolerance policy towards sexual harassment;
- (f) Reinforce its commitment to creating its campus free from discrimination, harassment, retaliation or sexual assault at all levels;
- (g) Create awareness about what constitutes sexual harassment including hostile environment harassment and quid pro quo harassment;
- (h) include in its prospectus and display prominently at conspicuous places or Notice Boards the penalty and consequences of sexual harassment and make all sections of the institutional community aware of the information on the mechanism put in place for redressal of complaints pertaining to sexual harassment, contact details of members of Internal Complaints Committee , complaints procedure and so on. Wherever a Gender Sensitization Committee against Sexual Harassment (GSCASH) already exists it must be brought additionally in consonance with the composition mandated by the Act;
- (i) inform employees and students of the recourse available to them if they are victims of sexual harassment;
- (j) Organise regular orientation or training programmes for the members of the ICC or GSCASH to deal with complaints, steer the process of settlement or conciliation, etc., with sensitivity;
- (k) Proactively move to curb all forms of harassment of employees and students whether it is from those in a dominant power or hierarchical relationship within TIs or owing to intimate partner violence or from peers or from elements outside of the geographical limits of the TI;
- (l) be responsible to bring those guilty of sexual harassment against its employees and students to book and initiate all proceedings as required by law and also put in place mechanisms and redressal systems like the ICC or GSCASH to curb and prevent sexual harassment on its campus.
- (m) Treat sexual harassment as misconduct under service rules and initiate action for misconduct if the perpetrator is an employee;
- (n) Treat sexual harassment as a violation of the disciplinary rules (leading up to rustication and expulsion) if the perpetrator is a student;
- (o) Ensure compliance with the provisions of these regulations, including appointment of ICC, within a period of sixty days from the date of publication of these regulations;
- (p) Monitor the timely submission of reports by the ICC or GSCASH;
- (q) Prepare an annual status report with details on the number of cases filed and their disposal and submit the same to the Council.

3.2 Supportive measures- (1) the rules, regulations or any such other instrument by which ICC or GSCASH shall function have to be updated and revised from time-to-time, as court judgments and other laws and rules will continue to revise the legal framework within which the Act is to be implemented.

- (2) The Executive Authority of the TIs must mandatorily extend full support to see that the recommendations of the ICC are implemented in a timely manner. All possible institutional resources must be given to the functioning of the ICC, including office and building infrastructure (computers, photocopiers, audio-video, equipment, etc.), staff (typists, counselling and legal services) as, well as a sufficient allocation of financial resources.
- (3) Vulnerable groups are particularly prone to harassment and also find it more difficult to complain. Vulnerability can be socially compounded by region, class, caste, sexual orientation, minority identity and by being differently abled. Enabling committees must be sensitive to such vulnerabilities and special needs.
- (4) Since research students and doctoral candidates are particularly vulnerable the TIs must ensure that the guidelines for ethics for Research Supervision are put in place.
- (5) All TIs must conduct a regular and half yearly review of the efficacy and implementation of their anti-sexual harassment policy.
- (6) Orientation courses conducted in TIs for administrators must have a module on gender sensitization and sexual harassment issues. Regular workshops are to be conducted for all sections of the TI community.
- (7) Counselling services must be institutionalised in all TIs and must have well trained full-time counsellors.
- (8) Many TIs having large campuses have a deficit in lighting and are experienced as unsafe places by the institutional community. Adequate lighting is a necessary aspect of infrastructure and maintenance.
- (9) Adequate and well trained security including a good proportion or balance of women security staff is necessary. Security staff must receive gender sensitization training as a part of conditions of appointment.
- (10) TIs must ensure reliable public transport, especially within large campuses between different sections of the TI, hostels, libraries, laboratories and main buildings, and especially those that do not have good access for day scholars. Lack of safety as well as harassment is exacerbated when employees and students cannot depend on safe public transport. Shuttle buses must be provided to enable employees and students to work late in libraries, laboratories and to attend programmes in the evenings.
- (11) TIs must build requisite women's hostels, which is a priority area. For the growing population of young women wishing to access higher education, hostel accommodation is a necessity in both urban and rural areas and at all levels of higher education which provides a modicum of protection from harassment of all kinds.
- (12) Concern for the safety of women students must not be cited to impose discriminatory rules for women in the hostels as compared to male students. Campus safety policies should not result in securitization, such as over monitoring or policing or curtailing the freedom of movement, especially for women employees and students.
- (13) Adequate health facilities are equally mandatory for all TIs. In the case of women this must include gender sensitive doctors and nurses, as well as the services of a gynaecologist.
- (14) The Women's Development Cells in colleges shall be revived and funded to be able to carry out the range of activities required for gender sensitization and remain autonomous of the functioning of anti sexual harassment committees and ICCs. At the same time they shall extend their activities to include gender sensitization programmes in consultation with ICCs and help to disseminate anti- sexual harassment policies on campuses on a regular basis. The 'cultural' space and the 'formal academic space' need to collaborate to render these workshops innovative, engaging and non-mechanical.
- (15) Hostel Wardens, Provosts, Principals, Legal Officers and other functionaries must be brought within the domain of accountability through amendments in the rules or Ordinances where necessary.

4. Grievance Redressal Mechanism- (1) Every TI shall constitute an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) with an inbuilt mechanism for gender sensitization against sexual harassment. The ICC shall have the following composition:-

- (a) A Presiding Officer who shall be a woman faculty member employed at a senior level (not below a Professor in case of a university, and not below an Associate Professor or Reader in case of a college) at the educational institution, nominated by the Executive Authority;
 - (b) Two faculty members and two non-teaching employees, preferably committed to the cause of women or who have had experience in social work or have legal knowledge, nominated by the Executive Authority;
 - (c) Three students (comprising of atleast one girl student) of Pre-Final/Final year at Undergraduate/ Diploma level Institute, as the case may be.
 - (d) One member from amongst non-government organisations or associations committed to the cause of women or a person familiar with the issues relating to sexual harassment, nominated by the Executive Authority.
- (2) At least one-half of the total members of the ICC shall be women.
 - (3) Persons in senior positions such as Chairman, Secretary of the Society & Principal / Director etc. shall not be the members of ICCs in order to ensure autonomy of their functioning.
 - 4) The term of office of the members of the ICC shall be for a period of three years. TIs may also employ a system whereby one-third of the members of the ICC may change every year.

5. Responsibilities of Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) or GSCASH - The Internal Complaints Committee shall:

- (a) Provide assistance if an employee or a student chooses to file a complaint with the police;
 - (b) provide mechanisms of dispute redressal and dialogue to anticipate and address issues through just and fair conciliation without undermining complainant's rights, and minimize the need for purely punitive approaches that lead to further resentment, alienation or violence;
 - (c) protect the safety of the complainant by not divulging the person's identity, and provide the mandatory relief by way of sanctioned leave or relaxation of attendance requirement or transfer to another department or supervisor as required during the pendency of the complaint, or also provide for the transfer of the offender;
 - (d) Ensure that victims or witnesses are not victimised or discriminated against while dealing with complaints of sexual harassment; and
 - (e) Ensure prohibition of retaliation or adverse action against a covered individual because the employee or the student is engaged in protected activity.
- 6. The Process for making Complaint and conducting Inquiry -** The ICC shall comply with the procedure prescribed in the Act, for making a complaint and inquiring into the complaint in a time bound manner. The TI shall provide all necessary facilities to the ICC to conduct the inquiry expeditiously and with required privacy.
- 7. Process of making Complaint -** (1) An aggrieved person is required to submit a written complaint along with supporting documents and names and addresses of the witnesses **if any** to the ICC within three months from the date of the incident and in case of a series of incidents within a period of three months from the date of the last incident.
- (2) Friends, relatives, colleagues, co-students, psychologist or any other associate of the victim may file the complaint in situations where the aggrieved person is unable to make a complaint on account of physical or mental incapacity or death.

8. Process of conducting Inquiry - (1) The ICC shall, upon receipt of the complaint, send one copy of the complaint to the respondent within a period of seven days of such receipt.

- (2) Upon receipt of the copy of the complaint, the respondent shall file his or her reply to the complaint along with the list of documents, and names and addresses of witnesses within a period of ten days.
- (3) The inquiry has to be completed within a period of ninety days from the receipt of the complaint. The inquiry report, with recommendations, if any, has to be submitted within ten days from the completion of the inquiry to the Executive Authority of the TI. Copy of the findings or recommendations shall also be served on both parties to the complaint.
- (4) The Executive Authority of the TI shall act on the recommendations of the committee within a period of thirty days from the receipt of the inquiry report, unless an appeal against the findings is filed within that time by either party.
- (5) An appeal against the findings or /recommendations of the ICC may be filed by either party before the Executive Authority of the TI within a period of thirty days from the date of the recommendations.
- (6) If the Executive Authority of the TI decides not to act as per the recommendations of the ICC, then it shall record written reasons for the same to be conveyed to ICC and both the parties to the proceedings. If on the other hand it is decided to act as per the recommendations of the ICC, then a show cause notice, answerable within ten days, shall be served on the party against whom action is decided to be taken. The Executive Authority of the TI shall proceed only after considering the reply or hearing the aggrieved person.
- (7) The aggrieved party may seek conciliation in order to settle the matter. No monetary settlement should be made as a basis of conciliation. The TI shall facilitate a conciliation process through ICC or GSCASH, as the case may be, once it is sought. The resolution of the conflict to the full satisfaction of the aggrieved party wherever possible, is preferred to purely punitive intervention.
- (8) The identities of the aggrieved party or victim or the offender shall not be made public or kept in the public domain especially during the process of the inquiry.

9. Interim Redressal- The TI may,

- (a) transfer the complainant or the respondent to another section or department to minimise the risks involved in contact or interaction, if such a recommendation is made by the ICC;
- (b) grant leave to the aggrieved with full protection of status and benefits for a period up to three months;
- (c) restrain the respondent from reporting on or evaluating the work or performance or tests or examinations of the complainant;
- (d) ensure that offenders are warned to keep a distance from the aggrieved, and wherever necessary, if there is a definite threat, restrain their entry into the campus;
- (e) take strict measures to provide a conducive environment of safety and protection to the complainant against retaliation and victimisation as a consequence of making a complaint of sexual harassment.

10. Punishment and compensation- (1) anyone found guilty of sexual harassment shall be punished in accordance with the service rules of the TI, if the offender is an employee. Depending upon the severity of the offence, the punishments may include anyone or more such as a written apology, warning, reprimand, censure, undergoing counselling or carrying out community service, withholding of promotion, withholding of pay rise or increments and terminating the respondent from service.

(2) Where the respondent is a student, depending upon the severity of the offence, the TI may,-

- (a) withhold privileges of the student such as access to the library, auditoria, halls of residence, transportation, scholarships, allowances, and identity card;
- (b) suspend or restrict entry into the campus for a specific period;
- (c) expel and strike off name from the rolls of the institution, including denial of readmission, if the offence so warrants;
- (d) Award reformatory punishments like mandatory counselling and, or, performance of community services.

(3) The aggrieved person is entitled to the payment of compensation. The TI shall issue direction for payment of the compensation recommended by the ICC and accepted by the Executive Authority, which shall be recovered from the offender. The compensation payable shall be determined on the basis of-

- (a) Mental trauma, pain, suffering and distress caused to the aggrieved person;
- (b) The loss of career opportunity due to the incident of sexual harassment;
- (c) The medical expenses incurred by the victim for physical, psychiatric treatment;
- (d) The income and status of the alleged perpetrator and victim; and
- (e) The feasibility of such payment in lump sum or in instalments.

11. Action against frivolous complaint- (1) To ensure that the provisions for the protection of employees and students from sexual harassment do not get misused, provisions against false or malicious complaints have to be made and publicised within all TIs. If the ICC or GSCASH concludes that the allegations made were false, malicious or the complaint was made knowing it to be untrue, or forged or misleading information has been provided during the inquiry, the complainant shall be liable to be punished as per the provisions of sub-regulations (1) of regulations 10, if the complainant happens to be an employee and as per sub-regulation (2) of that regulation, if the complainant happens to be a student.

12. Consequences of non-compliance-(1) The Council shall, in respect of any institution that will fully contravenes or repeatedly fails to comply with the obligations and duties laid out for the prevention, prohibition and redressal of sexual harassment of employees and students, take one or more of the following actions after providing due notice: -

- (a) Withdrawal of declaration of fitness to receive grants.
 - (b) removing the name of college from the list maintained by the Council;
 - (c) withholding any grant allocated to the institution;
 - (d) declaring the institution ineligible for consideration for any assistance under any of the general or special assistance programmes of the Council;
 - (e) informing the general public, including potential candidates for employment or admission, through a notice displayed prominently in the newspapers or other suitable media and posted on the website of the Council, declaring that the institution does not provide for a zero tolerance policy against sexual harassment;
 - (f) recommending the affiliating university for withdrawal of affiliation, in case of a college;
 - (g) Taking such other action within its powers as it may deem fit and impose such other penalties as may be provided in the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987 for such duration of time till the institution complies with the provisions of these regulations.
- (2) No action shall be taken by the Council under these regulations unless the Institution has been given an opportunity to explain its position and an opportunity of being heard has been provided to it.

Prof. A. P. MITTAL, Member Secy., AICTE

[ADVT. III/4/Exty./131(162)]