

LETTERS TO EDITOR

RAGGING: A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM

Sir,

We read the article 'Ragging: A public health problem in India'^[1] by Garg with interest. The manner in which the author has thrown light on the grave effects of ragging in professional institutions is quite commendable. We agree with most of the anti-ragging measures suggested by the authors. However, we differ on a few and would like to put forward our views.

We don't believe that provision of a separate hostel for newcomers is a good approach to curb the menace of ragging. On the contrary, it creates a long-lasting obstacle in the development of healthy senior-junior interaction. In professional courses like medicine and engineering, the guidance of seniors is much needed by the juniors for higher academic achievements and to prepare themselves efficiently for the postgraduation exams like MD/MS/MBA. The need of the time is to promote healthy interaction between the newcomers and seniors and this cannot be done by distancing them from each other. Though there are some pro-ragging elements in the institutions, there are anti-ragging elements too which help and guide the juniors to fine-tune their skills. Anti-ragging measures need to ensure that these helping hands of seniors don't get compromised.

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REFERENCE

1. Garg R. Ragging: A public health problem in India. *Indian J Med Sci* 2009;63:263-71.

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