



## REVIEW OF RESEARCH

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### A CORRELATIVE STUDY OF RAGGING AND PSYCHOSOCIAL ISSUES CAUSED IN TERMS OF GENDER AND GENERATION RANKING

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#### ABSTRACT

The practice of ragging entered into India in the guise of an 'initial ritual' in higher education institutions, where professional courses are conducted. Ragging involves abuse, humiliation or harassment of juniors by their seniors in professional colleges. Nearly in the last forty years, ragging has evolved as an unfair act of seniors causing physical, mental, psychological and sexual



harassment to their juniors and in extreme case it ended with murder or suicide of the juniors. Tamil Nadu became the epicenter of this dangerous act of ragging in professional colleges during the 1990's, and the Government of Tamil Nadu was the first one in the country to initiate legal actions against the practice of ragging in 1997. In spite of these stringent measures initiated by educational agencies and the Hon'ble Supreme

Court of India to stop ragging in educational institutions, the evil still persist in educational campuses Tamil Nadu. The present study was conducted to know the relationship between the prevalence of different forms of ragging and the psychosocial issues causing ragging in professional colleges in Tamil Nadu by conducting an empirical study. A sample of 457 professional college students was selected for the study. Data was analyzed by 'r' value. Result indicated that the correlation between the overall ragging and overall psychosocial issues. Correlation also noticed between the overall ragging and overall psychosocial issues in the case of male students. In the case of female students and generation ranking no correlation is found between the overall ragging and overall psychosocial issues.

**KEYWORDS:** Ragging, Prevalence of Ragging, Psychosocial Issues, Professional College Students.

#### INTRODUCTION

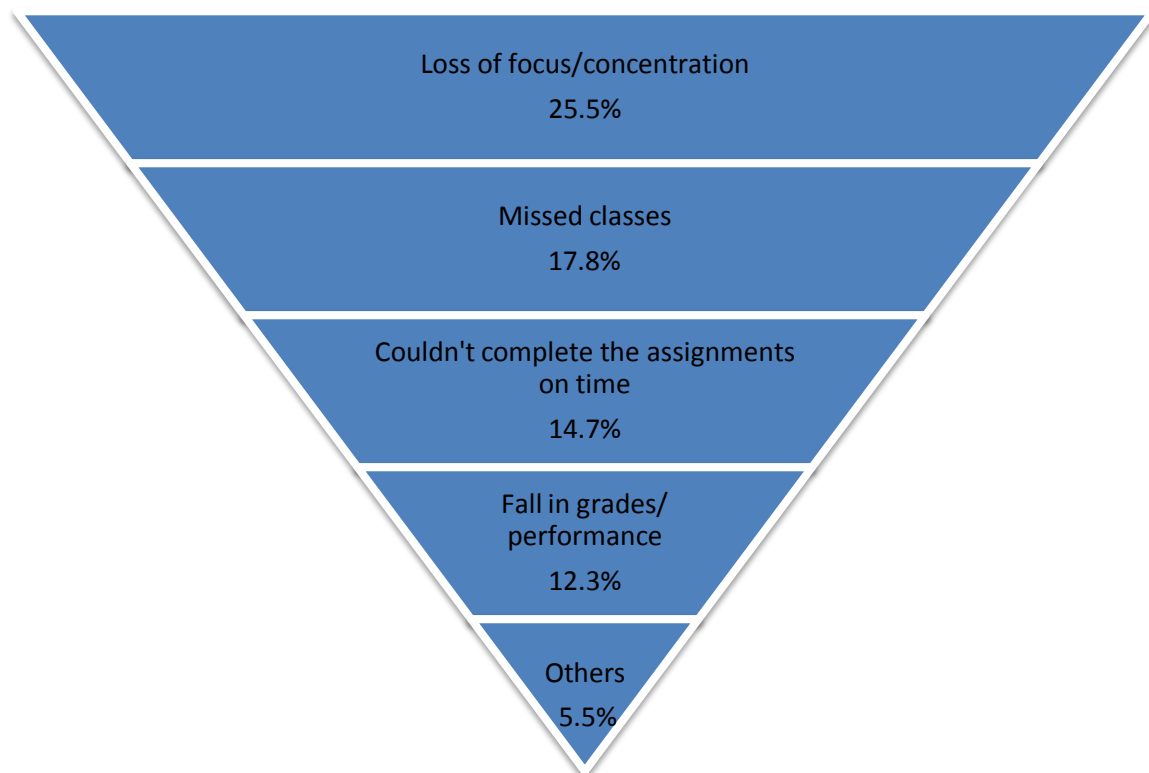
Ragging is a declared legal and criminal offence in India, but still persisting in professional colleges all over the country, taking away the spirit of being good, honest and sincere in realizing the aspirations of the individual students and the dream of the entire family, in no time, at the entry point itself. The worst of it is the cruel ugly teeth biting off the lifeline of hundreds of innocent lives of the freshers' in professional colleges. In spite of the prevailing ban on ragging in all educational institutions, it is shown now and then that it cannot be completely wiped out from college premises. The present research is in fact an extension of the first one which brought to light the existence of ragging in professional colleges in Tamil Nadu, now aiming at understanding the psychosocial issues arising in the victims of ragging, and the relationship between the types of ragging recorded and the relationships with the psychosocial issues caused among the freshers' confronting with the brunt of ragging.

**RATIONALE OF THE STUDY**

‘Ragging in India is now clearly known as a damaging form of first interaction of the seniors in colleges with the new comers or freshers.’ In fact, ragging involves ‘insults’ in multitude forms of eroding, rocking and demolishing the finer fabrications of mental, emotional, social, and physical domains of a person caught in ragging. Precisely, a person of wholesome personality is instantaneously rendered in rags. It is recorded that ‘freshers’ are subjected to inhuman barbaric and brutal acts such as being forced to urinate on high voltage heaters, take part in naked parades, shave off their moustaches and beards etc. The situation sometimes turns so bad that it compels the ragging victim to commit suicide.’

Further documentation of the negative impacts of ragging include ‘psychological problems, fighting, injuries developed fear, reduced trust and ability to develop friends living in isolation, coupled with trauma’. In the name of ragging, the freshers’ are typically ‘assaulted’ and ‘intimidated’ by seniors who leave a permanent mental mark in their minds. The assault typically haunts the students for the rest of the life and result in psychological disorder students who are continuously mistreated ‘lose hope’ in their studies and careers and become ‘isolated’. They usually succumb to ‘stress’ and commit suicide besides victims of ragging undergo ‘trauma’, ‘depression’, and ‘failure in their studies’.

The following figurative representation of the impact of ragging on mental activities clearly brings out the substantial damage being caused to students by ragging.



The above analyzed background information about ragging enabled the Researcher to identify the dimensions of ragging as Verbal abuse, Intimidation, Manhandling, and Sexual abuse. Moreover the Researcher developed and validated a ‘**Scale for Assessing Psychosocial Issues of Ragging**’ making use of the following categories of psychosocial issues culled out from the foregone analysis of literature on ragging:

1. Loss of Emotional Stability (ES)
2. Loss of Mental Faculties (MF)
3. Depression (DE)
4. Addiction (AD)
5. Aggression (AG)
6. Withdrawal/Isolation (WI)

Thus, by juxtaposing the dimensions of ragging against the dimensions of psychosocial issues the Researcher attempts to identify the relationship which in turn will reveal the impact of the dimensions of ragging over the victims in causing different psychosocial issues in the context of personal characteristics such as Gender and Generation ranking which are decided by birth.

### OBJECTIVES

- To find the significance of relationship between the prevalence of different forms of ragging in professional colleges and the psychosocial issues caused.
- To find the significance of relationship between the prevalence of ragging in professional colleges and the psychosocial issues caused in terms of Gender.
- To find the significance of relationship between the prevalence of ragging in professional colleges and the psychosocial issues caused in terms of Generation ranking.

### HYPOTHESES

1. There is no significant correlation between the prevalence of different forms of ragging in professional colleges and the psychosocial issues caused.
2. There is no significant correlation between the prevalence of ragging in professional colleges and the psychosocial issues caused in terms of Gender.
3. There is no significant correlation between the prevalence of ragging in professional colleges and the psychosocial issues caused in terms of Generation ranking.

### POPULATION, SAMPLE AND SAMPLING PROCEDURE

All the professional college students from medical, engineering, agriculture, veterinary, and dental courses in Tamil Nadu, form the population of the study.

3-5% of the population chosen randomly after due stratification will constitute the sample of the study. The final sample consists of 457 professional college students randomly chosen from medical, engineering, agriculture, veterinary, and dental courses in different regions of Tamil Nadu.

### RESEARCH METHOD

The quantitative data required for the present study is to be generated by adopting Survey method of research.

#### Tools

1. Ragging Prevalence Scale developed and validated by the Researchers.
2. Scale for Assessing Psychosocial Issues of Ragging developed and validated by the Researchers.

#### Analysis of Data

**Table 1: Correlation between the Prevalence of Different Forms of Ragging in Professional Colleges and the Psychosocial Issues Caused**

Dimension	Variables	N	Calculated 'r' Value	p-value
Verbal Abuse	ES	457	0.10	0.03*
	MF	457	0.04	0.41
	DE	457	0.03	0.59
	AD	457	0.01	0.87
	AG	457	0.31	0.00**
	WI	457	0.04	0.39
	Overall	457	0.03	0.53
Intimidation	ES	457	0.02	0.72
	MF	457	0.01	0.85
	DE	457	0.11	0.02*
	AD	457	0.02	0.71

	AG	457	0.03	0.51	
	WI	457	0.11	0.03*	
	Overall	457	0.03	0.48	
Man Handling	ES	457	0.06	0.16	
	MF	457	0.05	0.19	
	DE	457	0.01	0.95	
	AD	457	0.10	0.03*	
	AG	457	0.22	0.00**	
	WI	457	0.25	0.00*	
	Overall	457	0.12	0.01*	
	Sexual Abuse	ES	457	0.53	0.00**
		MF	457	0.29	0.00**
DE		457	0.06	0.18	
AD		457	0.06	0.19	
AG		457	0.07	0.12	
WI		457	0.31	0.00**	
Overall		457	0.02	0.61	
Overall Ragging	ES	457	0.30	0.00**	
	MF	457	0.15	0.00**	
	DE	457	0.03	0.54	
	AD	457	0.26	0.00**	
	AG	457	0.02	0.73	
	WI	457	0.11	0.02*	
	Overall	457	0.22	0.00**	

\*\*Significant at 0.01 level & \*Significant at 0.05 level.

**Table 2: Correlation between the Prevalence of Ragging and the Psychosocial Issues Caused in Professional Colleges in terms of Gender**

Gender	Dimension	Variables	N	Calculated 'r' Value	p-value
Male	Verbal Abuse	ES	199	0.03	0.62
		MF	199	0.02	0.77
		DE	199	0.11	0.12
		AD	199	0.12	0.09
		AG	199	0.07	0.33
		WI	199	0.03	0.71
		Overall	199	0.12	0.09
	Intimidation	ES	199	0.01	0.89
		MF	199	0.01	0.95
		DE	199	0.12	0.08
		AD	199	0.11	0.14
		AG	199	0.01	0.98
		WI	199	0.03	0.71
		Overall	199	0.09	0.14
	Man Handling	ES	199	0.02	0.77
		MF	199	0.27	0.00**
		DE	199	0.04	0.55
		AD	199	0.03	0.65
		AG	199	0.07	0.28
		WI	199	0.35	0.00**
		Overall	199	0.15	0.03*

	Sexual Abuse	ES	199	0.45	0.00**
		MF	199	0.03	0.63
		DE	199	0.05	0.53
		AD	199	0.10	0.16
		AG	199	0.10	0.17
		WI	199	0.01	0.95
		Overall	199	0.01	0.87
	Overall Ragging	ES	199	0.27	0.00**
		MF	199	0.16	0.02*
		DE	199	0.19	0.00**
		AD	199	0.25	0.00**
		AG	199	0.21	0.00**
		WI	199	0.17	0.02*
		Overall	199	0.19	0.01*
Female	Verbal Abuse	ES	258	0.05	0.38
		MF	258	0.04	0.50
		DE	258	0.03	0.66
		AD	258	0.08	0.18
		AG	258	0.02	0.81
		WI	258	0.04	0.54
		Overall	258	0.04	0.58
	Intimidation	ES	258	0.02	0.73
		MF	258	0.01	0.98
		DE	258	0.10	0.11
		AD	258	0.10	0.10
		AG	258	0.05	0.40
		WI	258	0.03	0.67
		Overall	258	0.11	0.08
	Man Handling	ES	258	0.01	0.85
		MF	258	0.22	0.00**
		DE	258	0.02	0.71
		AD	258	0.03	0.58
		AG	258	0.06	0.36
		WI	258	0.19	0.00**
		Overall	258	0.18	0.00**
	Sexual Abuse	ES	258	0.59	0.00**
		MF	258	0.33	0.00**
		DE	258	0.08	0.22
		AD	258	0.03	0.58
		AG	258	0.06	0.36
		WI	258	0.03	0.63
		Overall	258	0.05	0.41
	Overall Ragging	ES	258	0.31	0.00**
		MF	258	0.14	0.03*
DE		258	0.02	0.76	
AD		258	0.10	0.79	
AG		258	0.02	0.74	
WI		258	0.06	0.32	
Overall		258	0.01	0.89	

\*\*Significant at 0.01 level & \*Significant at 0.05 level.

**Table 3: Correlation between the Prevalence of Ragging and the Psychosocial Issues Caused in Professional Colleges based on Generation Ranking**

Learners	Dimension	Variables	N	Calculated 'r' Value	p-value
First Generation	Verbal Abuse	ES	260	0.06	0.37
		MF	260	0.01	0.97
		DE	260	0.04	0.51
		AD	260	0.06	0.36
		AG	260	0.01	0.86
		WI	260	0.04	0.56
		Overall	260	0.04	0.53
	Intimidation	ES	260	0.08	0.19
		MF	260	0.007	0.25
		DE	260	0.09	0.16
		AD	260	0.11	0.09
		AG	260	0.08	0.18
		WI	260	0.05	0.39
		Overall	260	0.16	0.02*
	Man Handling	ES	260	0.02	0.72
		MF	260	0.18	0.00**
		DE	260	0.02	0.72
		AD	260	0.02	0.79
		AG	260	0.04	0.52
		WI	260	0.23	0.00**
		Overall	260	0.13	0.04*
	Sexual Abuse	ES	260	0.63	0.00**
		MF	260	0.06	0.28
		DE	260	0.08	0.22
		AD	260	0.14	0.02*
		AG	260	0.10	0.09
		WI	260	0.16	0.30
		Overall	260	0.01	0.84
Overall Ragging	ES	260	0.38	0.00**	
	MF	260	0.10	0.09	
	DE	260	0.03	0.67	
	AD	260	0.06	0.37	
	AG	260	0.01	0.98	
	WI	260	0.06	0.35	
	Overall	260	0.02	0.78	
Others	Verbal Abuse	ES	197	0.03	0.65
		MF	197	0.09	0.22
		DE	197	0.10	0.15
		AD	197	0.05	0.47
		AG	197	0.05	0.46
		WI	197	0.05	0.50
		Overall	197	0.11	0.11
	Intimidation	ES	197	0.06	0.39
		MF	197	0.13	0.06
		DE	197	0.13	0.06
		AD	197	0.10	0.15
		AG	197	0.05	0.48

		WI	197	0.04	0.55
		Overall	197	0.01	0.99
	Man Handling	ES	197	0.03	0.72
		MF	197	0.32	0.00**
		DE	197	0.03	0.66
		AD	197	0.10	0.17
		AG	197	0.10	0.17
		WI	197	0.28	0.00**
		Overall	197	0.12	0.10
	Sexual Abuse	ES	197	0.45	0.00**
		MF	197	0.01	0.99
		DE	197	0.04	0.60
		AD	197	0.04	0.59
		AG	197	0.03	0.68
		WI	197	0.03	0.72
		Overall	197	0.08	0.24
	Overall Ragging	ES	197	0.21	0.00**
		MF	197	0.20	0.00**
		DE	197	0.10	0.17
		AD	197	0.14	0.04*
		AG	197	0.03	0.63
WI		197	0.17	0.02*	
Overall		197	0.03	0.70	

*\*\*Significant at 0.01 level & \*Significant at 0.05 level.*

## FINDINGS

1. The correlative analysis computed for establishing the relationship between prevalence of ragging in professional colleges and the psychosocial issues caused indicates that the Overall Ragging is **significantly correlated** with Overall Psychosocial Issues and its dimensions loss of emotional stability, addiction, loss of mental faculty, and withdrawal.  
On extending the same analysis for dimensions of ragging, it is found that there is **significant correlation** between Verbal abuse and the psychosocial issues loss of emotional stability and aggression; between Intimidation and depression, as well as with withdrawal; between Man handling and the psychosocial issues addiction, aggression, and withdrawal; and also between sexual abuse and the psychosocial issues loss of emotional stability, loss of mental faculties and withdrawal.
2. On testing the significance of correlation in terms of gender between ragging and Psychosocial Issues caused, it is found that in the case of **male** professional college students **significant correlation** is found between Overall Ragging and Overall Psychosocial Issues and its dimensions withdrawal, aggression, addiction, depression, loss of mental faculties, and loss of emotional stability.  
The dimension of ragging Sexual abuse is found to be **significantly correlated** with the dimension of psychosocial issue loss of emotional stability for male students.  
Similarly for male students, the dimension Man handling is **significantly correlated** with loss of mental faculty, addiction, withdrawal and Overall Psychosocial Issues.  
In the case of male students, Intimidation and Verbal Abuse is not found to be **significantly correlated** with any of the dimensions of Overall Ragging and Overall Psychosocial Issues.  
In the case of **female** professional college students, **significant correlation** is found between Man handling and loss of mental faculties, withdrawal, and Overall Psychosocial Issues; between Sexual abuse and loss of emotional stability, and loss of mental faculties; and between Overall Ragging and loss of emotional stability, and loss of mental faculties.
3. Analysis of data in terms of Generation ranking of professional college students, the overall ragging perceived by **first generation** professional college students is **significantly correlated** with loss of

emotional stability. The prevalence of Intimidation is **significantly correlated** with Overall Psychosocial Issues caused by ragging. The prevalence of Man handling is **significantly correlated** with loss of mental faculties, withdrawal and Overall Psychosocial Issues caused. **Significant correlation** is found between Sexual abuse, and loss of emotional stability and addiction.

In the case of professional college students **other than first generation** learners, the prevalence of Overall Ragging is **significantly correlated** by the psychosocial issues caused loss of emotional stability, loss of mental faculties, addiction and withdrawal. **Significant correlation** was found between Man handling and psychosocial issues loss of mental faculties and withdrawal. Psychosocial issues loss of emotional stability is found to be a **significant correlate** of the ragging Sexual abuse.

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

For the overall population the correlative analysis reveals that overall ragging is having significant relationship with the overall psychosocial issues, indicating the interactive characteristics of both the dependent and independent variables. However, considering the impact of overall ragging over psychosocial issues in total statistically, the unique impact of overall ragging on loss of emotional stability, loss of mental faculties, addiction, and withdrawal is confirmed. Moreover, the category wise correlative analysis reveals the unique impact of Verbal abuse over loss of emotional stability and aggression; Intimidation over depression and withdrawal, while Man handling on addiction, aggression and withdrawal, with Sexual abuse over loss of emotional stability, loss of mental faculties and withdrawal. It is interesting to note that loss of emotional stability is likely to be worked out by two of the categories of ragging Verbal abuse and Sexual abuse. The creation of withdrawal tendency can be attributed to Intimidation, Man handling and Sexual abuse. It is also interesting to note the issue depression is caused mainly by Intimidation. It suggests the need for further investigation between the categories of ragging and their impact on psychosocial issues to establish the way by which such impact or influence occurs.

Table-2 furnishes the fact that male students are very much influenced by overall ragging and its categories to give rise to the formation of all the six types of psychosocial issues. The Researcher deduces from the unique finding that male students are very much susceptible to the overall ragging as such to develop all the psychosocial issues. Moreover, the male students are found to be very much affected by the physical aspects of ragging such as Sexual abuse and Man handling to accelerate the formation of almost all the psychosocial issues. The novel finding in the case of female professional college students is that the overall ragging has impact on the development of only loss of emotional stability and loss of emotional faculties. It suggests that unlike male students the female students are much emotionally strong enough to withstand the impact of ragging.

In the case of first generation professional college students, more than the overall ragging the individual categories of ragging seem to have more influential in forming the psychosocial issues. Intimidation is shown to influence overall psychosocial issues, while Man handling is significantly related to loss of mental faculties, withdrawal and overall psychosocial issues. Similarly, Sexual abuse is a significant correlate of emotional stability and addiction. However, the professional college students, other than first generation learners seem to have been more influenced by overall ragging than by the individual categories of ragging. It clearly indicates that first generation professional college students having understood about the play of ragging in college campus keep themselves as protective as possible from the scene of ragging. In spite of such preplanned movement they seem to have been caught by the cruel forms of ragging. The behavior of professional college students of other than first generation seems to be almost like the general population in the case of the reaction with ragging.

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