

CST ENDEAVOURS AT CURBING RAGGING IN THE INSTITUTE

The Counselling Service Team (CST) under aegis of Dean (Student Affairs) has played a crucial role in the elimination of ragging in IIT Bhubaneswar. As soon as the counselling process begins, the CST members ensure that every fresher feels at home in the new campus. During the registration process, the team extends its assistance to all the freshers, individually, catering to their needs and giving them support wherever, whenever needed. Besides, the freshers are also made aware of their rights and the functioning of the institute. The CST through General Body Meetings conducted early at the beginning of the academic year makes sure that all the students are informed about the 'Anti Ragging Committee'.

The CST works on a regular basis with the freshers at IIT Bhubaneswar as soon as they arrive in the institute to make it a ragging free institute. The concept of a buddy system incorporated into the team allows every Student Guide (2nd yr student) to take care of at least 10-12 freshers under her/his guidance throughout 1st year. The Student Guide regularly interacts with the students to not only make them feel comfortable in the new environment but also prompts them to share their problems, discomfort, doubts, frustrations as well as apprehensions over phone as well as in person on the campus. The Coordinator (4th yr student) and Assistant Coordinators (3rd yr students) keep a watch on the activities of the Student Guides as well as other senior students to prevent anybody getting indulged in ragging.

The CST conducts an orientation for the students during the weekends in the first month of their academic year that includes activities and games allowing them opportunities of social contacts with their seniors to dispel their inhibitions and fears about their seniors moving towards better friendly relations and creating a healthy atmosphere amongst them. CST also organizes events like Treasure Hunt and Fachas Got Talent to make freshers comfortable and showcasing their talents. The team also exchanges ideas during these sessions concerning various activities of the Institute providing them a platform to share their views openly, exploring their talents through ice breakers and eventually absorbing them to the Gymkhana societies.

The student Guides serving as mentors are therefore well informed about all the activities the freshers are involved in. The first years share their anxieties and dilemma with their guides and hence any incident of misbehaviour from a batch mate or senior doesn't go unnoticed. This ensures no student gets involved in ragging.

The Institute Counsellor regularly interacts with the freshers in the classroom in a group session as well as in an individual session to build rapport with the new students and also create an atmosphere of We- feeling and a sense of belongingness to the IIT Bhubaneswar community. The counsellor also expresses her availability round the clock and her availability on phone. The counsellor makes a visit to the hostel once a month to ensure that the students are comfortable and settled in the new campus. Dean (SA) and Professor-in-Charge Counselling are always available to help the students in case the need arises.

The CST creates a healthy atmosphere of collaboration and cooperation. When these students advance as second year students, they have the attitude that the CST had inculcated in them, to respect each individual and help any junior in need.

Thus rather than involving in ragging most of them turn up to join CST and help their juniors, as once they were helped by their Student Guides.