

**FRESHER'S INTERACTION @ IIT Dharwad:
SOME POINTS TO REMEMBER.**

Dear Freshers,

We welcome you once again to the IIT Dharwad fraternity. Many of you may have apprehensions about hostel life, particularly about your “interactions” with the seniors in the first few weeks. For your benefit we would like to highlight the fresher-senior interaction at IIT Dharwad.

While it is desirable that freshers and seniors should get to know each other, this must happen in a mutually friendly manner. 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.**

On the other hand, if a fresher is forced to do anything which results in his/her mental discomfort, it should be interpreted as ragging which is banned by a ruling of the Supreme Court of India. Please be firm and say “no” to any aggressive behavior without any fear or hesitation. In particular, ragging may take the following forms:

- **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 for 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.
 - Reading or browsing pornographic/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 sleeping/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.

- **Freshers are advised to avoid:**
 - Any interaction which is not mutually agreeable and on equal terms.
 - Visiting seniors' room during the interaction period, or inviting seniors to their own room.

There is absolutely no reason for you to put up with any form of aggressive interaction.

Please contact anyone from the following

1. Hostel Manager - Mr. S. Janardhan Reddy - 83093 12609
2. Asso. Dean (H & M) - Prof. Surya Pratap Singh - 96863 88494
3. Assistant Registrar(Student Welfare) - Mr. Arun Verma -70173 04843
4. Junior Superintendent(Security) - Mr.Deepak Tiwari - 98114 45696
5. Superintendent of Police, Dharwad - 0836 2233200

It will help us to curb aggressive interaction more effectively if you are not hesitant to provide details.(mobile numbers are given in the “Emergency contact details” list), to report any ragging incident.

If you want to leave an anonymous note about ragging that you have witnessed or experienced, please do so by writing mail to dean.sw@iitdh.ac.in You may also contact the security control room which is operating 24×7 (4444 , you have to prefix 0836 if you call from outside IITDharwad).

Please note that all of the above also applies to freshers interacting with freshers.

Freshers should also ensure that they are neither rude nor undisciplined in their interaction with other students, staff or faculty.

Dean, Student Welfare