

## ***Anti-Ragging Initiatives at Gushkara Mahavidyalaya***

Gushkara Mahavidyalaya, established on **9 August 1965** in an agrarian region of West Bengal's Purba Bardhaman district, predominantly serves students from economically weaker and lower-middle-income families. Remarkably, since its inception, no incidents of ragging have been reported—a testament to the institution's enduring culture of respect and discipline. [gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in](http://gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in)

### **Founding and Institutional Commitment**

Despite the absence of ragging incidents, the college took a proactive stance in line with the **Supreme Court of India's directives**. In compliance with the Court's orders and the **UGC Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions (2009)**, the Governing Body formally constituted an **Anti-Ragging Cell** on **8 December 2010**. [gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in](http://gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in) More recently, the institution renewed its commitment by forming a **new Anti-Ragging Cell** under the supervision of the Principal on **28 August 2023** for the 2023–24 academic session. [gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in](http://gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in) This renewal ensures that the institution's policies remain current and attuned to evolving regulations.

### **Objectives and Functions of the Cell**

The core objectives, as articulated on the college's official site, include:

- Prohibiting conduct—whether verbal, written, or physical—that could tease, humiliate, or rudely treat any fresher or student.
- Raising awareness about the legal and personal consequences of ragging.
- Maintaining vigilant oversight to pre-empt any such incidents.
- Promptly addressing any complaints, with actions recommended by the committee.
- Holding **executive meetings at least thrice annually** to review policy implementation and effectiveness. [gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in](http://gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in)

These objectives reflect alignment with **UGC guidelines**, which define ragging in broad terms encompassing mental or physical abuse, bullying, and exclusion, across cultural, economic, and personal dimensions.

### **Defined Anti-Ragging Policies and Penalties**

Gushkara Mahavidyalaya's published policy outlines a comprehensive definition of ragging echoing the UGC's expansive categorization, including actions likely to cause **psychological or physical harm, shame, embarrassment, or fear**—extending coverage to acts of **financial extortion, bullying, sexual or discriminatory abuse**, and more. [gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in](http://gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in)

The prescribed disciplinary measures for violations also mirror UGC mandates:

- Warning or issuance of a formal apology.
- Suspension from academic activities or privileges.
- Withdrawal or withholding of scholarships or financial benefits. [gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in](http://gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in)

These align closely with the punishments enumerated in the UGC Regulations, demonstrating full institutional compliance

### **Committee Oversight and Transparency**

The Anti-Ragging Cell at Gushkara Mahavidyalaya is structured with clear leadership and accountability. The shared information includes:

- **Joint Conveners:**
  - Dr. Sukhendu Roy (Contact: 8900281291, email: [sukhendu@gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in](mailto:sukhendu@gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in))
  - Dr. Tanusri Senapati (Contact: 8820112804, email: [tanusri@gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in](mailto:tanusri@gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in))
- **Members of Teaching Staff:**
  - Dr. Manisha Mondal, Dr. Monimala Mondal, among others, each accessible via listed contact details. [gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in](http://gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in)

This transparency supports accessibility and responsiveness—crucial for any anti-ragging mechanism to stay effective and credible.

### **UGC and Wider Regulatory Alignment**

UGC regulations and Supreme Court directives mandate multiple layers of defense against ragging: from institutional policies and committees to student and parent affidavits, surprise inspections by anti-ragging squads, and the establishment of helplines and online grievance mechanisms. While Gushkara Mahavidyalaya's website does not explicitly mention anti-ragging affidavits or helplines, the formational structure of the Cell, coupled with regular meetings and clear disciplinary protocols, indicates strong procedural alignment.

Moreover, the college's timely formation and recent renewal of the Anti-Ragging Cell (in 2010 and again in 2023) reflect compliance with periodic guidelines and evolving national standards—such as expanding definitions that now cover digital harassment and social media abuse

### **Recent Awareness Initiatives**

Beyond internal structuring, the college also observes **Anti-Ragging Week**, which is a national initiative spearheaded by UGC. According to a notice on the college site, Anti-Ragging Week was scheduled **from 12 August to 18 August 2025**, organized by the Anti-Ragging Cell. [gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in](http://gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in) This aligns with UGC's advocacy for awareness-raising through workshops, group discussions, and student guidance during designated anti-ragging periods. [Maharashtra Times](#)

### **Contextual Strengths and Proactive Culture**

- **Longstanding clean record:** The fact that no ragging has occurred since 1965 is a unique asset. It speaks to a deep-rooted culture of respect and responsible behavior among students and staff. [gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in](http://gushkaramahavidyalaya.ac.in)

- **Proactive adherence:** Formalizing a dedicated Anti-Ragging Cell—even in the absence of incidents—reflects foresight and institutional maturity.
- **Regular engagement:** Holding Executive meetings thrice yearly ensures the anti-ragging framework remains dynamic and responsive.

### Potential Enhancements (My Observations)

While the college excels in many aspects, it might strengthen its anti-ragging framework by considering the following measures (common in many UGC-compliant institutions):

1. **Affidavit System:** Requiring students and guardians to file anti-ragging undertakings as part of admission, consistent with national practice.
2. **Complaint Channels:** Setting up anonymous complaint boxes, dedicated helplines, or online forms to facilitate discreet reporting.
3. **Surprise Inspections:** Establishing an active Anti-Ragging Squad to conduct unannounced checks in hostels or campus areas.
4. **Awareness Campaigns:** Expanding behavioral interventions such as orientation sessions, peer mentorship programs, and visible communications (posters, digital displays).

These suggestions emerge from effective practices at other institutions (e.g., Delhi University's anti-ragging squads, mentorship networks, display of nodal contact info, and use of apps).

### Conclusion

In sum, Gushkara Mahavidyalaya demonstrates a robust commitment to preventing ragging by:

- Establishing and periodically renewing an **Anti-Ragging Cell** (2010, renewed 2023).
- Clearly articulating policy, objectives, definitions, and punishments conforming to **UGC regulations**.
- Maintaining transparency with available committee member information.
- Observing **Anti-Ragging Week (12–18 August 2025)** in line with national awareness efforts.
- Sustaining an unblemished record spanning decades—highlighting the institution's enduring respect-driven ethos.

While commendably compliant with UGC and Supreme Court mandates, Gushkara Mahavidyalaya could further augment its framework by integrating additional layers of early detection, support, and whistleblower protection—ensuring anti-ragging mechanisms are not just reactive, but predictively protective.



  
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