

A Students Report to the Chairman of Army Law College, Pune

Introduction

This report has been compiled by concerned students at Army Law College, Pune, in response to the deteriorating academic, administrative, and mental health conditions on campus. What began as scattered concerns and individual struggles has now escalated into a collective crisis. The purpose of this report is to formally document the issues faced by students under the current leadership and to make an urgent appeal for institutional intervention. We are not just writing this for ourselves, but for those who may silently suffer and those who may not survive unless systemic change is implemented.

We write this with deep respect for the institution and its ideals, but also with the responsibility to speak truth to power. The mental burden, academic mismanagement, and administrative intimidation we face are not isolated incidents. In the context of rising student suicides across India, our reality is not just alarming, it is dangerous. This report brings together firsthand experiences, official statistics, and a structured appeal to restore dignity, safety, and fairness to campus life.

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In raising these concerns directly to you, we are exercising our right, and responsibility as students to speak out against what we believe is unjust, unsafe, and harmful within our institution. The academic disarray, administrative overreach, and emotional toll outlined above are not isolated complaints but part of a pattern that continues to undermine the very values this college was founded upon.

We reiterate that our intention is not to defame, but to reform. We believe in the vision of Army Law College, but we can no longer ignore the growing gap between that vision and our day-to-day reality.

We respectfully request your immediate and personal intervention to investigate, respond to, and resolve these matters. Our collective future, and potentially our safety, depends on it.

Sincere Regards,

LETTER TO THE CHAIRMAN

To,
The Chairman
Army Law College, Pune
Maharashtra, India

Subject: Urgent Intervention Required Regarding Academic Mismanagement, Administrative Misconduct and Mental Harassment

Respected Sir,

We, the students at Army Law College, Pune, write to you with a profound sense of urgency and responsibility. This letter is not merely a list of grievances it is a sincere and desperate plea for intervention considering the deteriorating conditions that have affected our academic well-being, mental health, and fundamental dignity as students.

We enrolled at Army Law College with immense faith in the values of the Indian Army discipline, integrity, leadership, and fairness. Under the previous leadership of **Col. A.K. Pandey** (Registrar) and **Mr. Ganesh Deshmane** (Principal-in-Charge), those values were upheld. The atmosphere was structured, respectful, and student friendly. However, since the appointment of **Dr. Madhushree Joshi** as Principal and **Col. Suneel Mann** as Registrar, the college environment has become increasingly hostile, unprofessional, and oppressive.

I. Academic Mismanagement and Mental Harassment

1. Subjects Assigned to Unspecialized Faculty:

Faculty members are being assigned subjects outside their core expertise. As a result, the quality of education has dropped severely. Students are confused, teachers appear underprepared many of them have humbly requested the principal that they are teaching this subject for the first time since it was never their specialization and they are forced to do it without any valid explanation from the principal, and with exams approaching, many of us feel academically abandoned as there is a lack of faculty in the junior batches. Principal herself lacks conceptual clarity about the subjects and have poor feedback from previous batches. For instance, a faculty of Constitution is forced to teach international law which is not even their forte. This is illogical and completely arbitrary.

2. Timetable Confusion and Last-Minute Changes:

The academic timetables are frequently changed with little to no prior notice either to the faculty or the students. This results in widespread confusion, overlapping classes, and missed lectures. optional classes were to be conducted from the 1st July 2025 but due principals order and an illogical excuse the faculties were forced not to take classes till 15th of July 2025 even when they were ready to teach and the students were ready to learn. When this was reported to the principal, she gave a reason which was completely invalid and did not allow any faculty of optional subject to conduct classes

3. Mental Harassment and Public Humiliation:

The conduct of the current Principal is not only academically unproductive but emotionally damaging. She lacks experience to handle tough situations and is never pro – student and she makes unilateral academic policies that are never in the favor of the students. In some cases, students have been humiliated in front of others for raising valid issues, causing immense psychological distress. The new academic policies not only hinder the student's mental health but also puts in risk the future of the students. Due to certain changes in the policies, it is impossible for the students to cope up to the policies which hinders their mental well-being.

4. Suppression of Student Voice and Dissolution of Student Council:

The Student Council was dissolved by **Dr. Madhushree Joshi** simply because it tried to communicate students' problems to the previous Chairman. The Student Council is a statutory body established by the University under ***Sec 99 (2) of the Maharashtra Public Universities Act of 2016*** the Principal without any notice she has dissolved it which is arbitrary use of her power. This is a direct attack on student representation and freedom of expression. We tried mailing her many times our voices were unheard she deliberately ignores important mails from students and pretends that the problems of students will resolve on their own. Our grievance redressal mechanism has failed which was as per the ***AWES (Army Welfare Education Society)*** has been exhausted and failed. When we lawfully asked our administration during roll call that we want to meet our chairman to resolve our disputes it was communicated by the administration that ***“the chairman is not free for your reasons he has other important things to do”***.

5. Discriminatory and Insensitive Conduct:

When students asked for any sort of clarification from the administration it was continuously seen that authority first asked about their parents rank and then their tone and Behaviour changes accordingly.

6. Concerns regarding Academic Leave (AL) and Medical Leaves (ML):

It is completely obvious that students may get sick at any time of a particular day and many times it is just a minor ailment (common cold, cough, fever, periods for girls, etc.) and due to that every time, we cannot go to a proper hospital and get the things checked as these kind of diseases can be healed by medication form that is prescribed by our college's nursing assistant. Till last semester **2 days** a month was allotted to take medical leaves prescribed by our nursing assistant and that was considered a valid form of presentees. The students are supposed to submit a medical application **within 48 hrs.** without any valid reason.

But from this semester we don't get such type of medical leaves and even at the time of serious illness our medical claims are not accepted and it is clarified in a notification that we will not get any sort of relief during medical conditions and these all things will be covered in **25% exemptive attendance policy** given by Bar Council of India and will have no effect in regular **75% mandatory attendance policy**. As per **SPPU Ordinance 70** regarding attendance such medical exemptions are allowed as per principal's discretion but she does not allow the same.

Academic Leave (AL):

In any law college participating in curricular competitions is an integral part of our legal education, but now we whenever a student is participating in any sort of competition, they are not given appropriate leaves prescribed by **SPPU Ordinance 71**. For instances, if a student is participating in a Moot Court Competition, he /she is not given academic for travelling days, say if a competition is in Kolkata student will get only for the days of competition and not for the travelling days.

7. Professional Incompetence of the Principal:

The principal previous year was teaching us **Transfer of Property Act (TOPA)**, firstly she failed to take the minimum number of lectures as per the policy for that particular semester, she tried to compensate this with audio lectures on WhatsApp and that is not the standard way of teaching and she tried to demean us by stating that *“you will not understand the module of Mortgage because it is tough”* and mortgage constitutes a major portion of **TOPA** syllabus, and never again in this year also we received any guest lectures to compensate it. We have all WhatsApp chats, audio notes and proof regarding the above given statement. She speaks ill about our faculty members in front of the students and demeans their authority before them, we have witnesses who have heard it.

8. Inappropriate Investigation During Disciplinary Committee:

Firstly, the members of the disciplinary committee are not taking decisions in their individual capacity. Their opinion is not free and often influenced by the head of the institution and whenever members (our faculties) try to give their individual opinion, it is communicated to them by the principal to change their wordings and to impose punishment in contravention of code of conduct.

Secondly, whenever students ask about the evidence that is therein against them, then authorities state to students as well as their parents that this particular evidence is our confidential information. This statement by authorities is contrary to Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023.

9. Overpowering the administration by Principal ma'am:

Principal is academic head of the institution and Registrar is administrative head of the institution but Principal is transgressing the jurisdiction and is overpowering the administration head. **For instances**, she has unilaterally changed the dressing policy without considering the Registrar, other authorities and the students, the previous policy was that students can wear civil dress on Wednesdays and Fridays but she unilaterally changed the policy and asked to stop wearing these attires without any official notice and she lied about consulting it with the Registrar, where registrar did not even have the knowledge about the same.

10. Suppressing the voice of students by calling Police and village sarpanch:

When yesterday on **08th Aug 2025** we started our peaceful demonstration when all our grievance redressal mechanism exhausted and our stance was clear that we are just willing to meet our college chairman but about within an hour principal Ma'am called village Sarpanch and few Policemen who then tried to suppress our voices threatening us that Ma'am will file an **FIR** on all the students of Army Law College, Pune. We were restricted from shooting a video during an interaction with the police officer.

11. Ulterior motive with the Institution and the post:

The principal has a motive to open this college for the civilians even when this college is especially for the wards of Army personnel as she thinks that she thinks that the students of Army Personnels are not competent enough and she has stated this in front of few students.

12. Procedural Hurdles for signing internships related documents:

Student when they proceed to the principal with documents related to internships she always refuses and talks about baseless policies and principles.

13. Appointment of guest lectures:

When a guest lecturer is appointed, it is not as per their qualifications and expertise it is as per the principal's personal relations and liking. For instance, 5th year students are asked to join guest lectures regarding soft skills, while the same session has been conducted every year with the same guest lecturer. No, specialized person from companies and prestigious corporate law firms were invited and irrelevant guest lectures are being conducted and promotion of religious believes.

14. Placements problems:

Our placement officer is not allowed to work in her individual capacity; she is overburdened with other academic related activities such as teaching accounts to the **1st year students**, when the faculty denied stating that she is not qualified and experienced, even then she was compelled to do so. Students were not allowed to sit in placement rounds, merely on account of an ongoing disciplinary proceeding against them. Companies were denied from conducting placement sessions in the campus, this was unilaterally decided by the principal. Use of college resources is denied from being used for the tasks regarding internship and placement cell.

15. Removal of key members of the institution:

Many key members like our **Finance, Accounts and MIS professor and the Physical Director** along with the **Academic Clerk** left the institution because of which the academic activities are being hampered. Our previous year marksheet was not provided to us on time which further hampered our internship and other official works.

16. Misuse Of Financial Resources of the Institution:

Despite of abundance of funds, the budgets of the college committees are constrained for external and internal events or even for organizing them. For instances, our flagship event ***Quest Indicia National Moot Court Competition 2025***, was shifted to hybrid mode where it is the only event which attracts the participants from all over the country.

17. Cap On the Number of Members in the Committee:

The number of students in the college is increasing every year but there is a cap placed on the committees for the induction of members which was **20 members** previously and now this is shifted to **15 members** now. This policy was changed unilaterally and students were not taken into consideration.

II. Administrative Harassment and Misuse of Authority

1. Vacating the hostels during Diwali Break

As per the notice issued by the Registrar, students are required to vacate the hostels during the Diwali break. However, this poses a significant challenge, as students would need to book tickets, travel to their hometowns for just one week, and then return immediately to prepare for upcoming exams. This is particularly difficult for those who live far away, and securing reservations this early is also not feasible.

2. Overcrowded Hostels and Dismissive Attitude:

Rooms designed for three students are being crammed with four, making living conditions uncomfortable and unhygienic. When students raised this issue, the Registrar's response was, "Leave the hostel. I'll sign your day scholar pass." Such apathy is not what we expect from an institution affiliated with the Army.

3.Excessive, Arbitrary Restrictions:

- Parent emails are required even for short visits to nearby areas like Kanhe (just 5 minutes away).
- Hostel in-time was unilaterally reduced to 10 PM without consultation.

4.Misuse of College Staff and Resources:

There are multiple accounts that college-employed staff are being used for the Registrar's personal errands including delivering food to his residence and walking his dog. Meanwhile, students are told there is "no budget" for essential academic and hostel improvements.

5.Discrimination Based on Parents' Military Rank:

There have been incidents where students were asked about their father's military rank before their concerns were heard. This is deeply offensive. We are here as students in our own right, not as extensions of our parents' careers, and such discrimination goes against the principles the Army stands for.

6.Financial Exploitation in NCC:

Students were forced to pay ₹13,000 for NCC enrolment — ₹6,500 for a substandard uniform and another ₹6,500 as a one-time fee. When we protested, we were bluntly told: "If you don't want to pay, leave NCC."

Despite representing the college at CATC 711 and earning accolades, no recognition or appreciation was offered — not even a single photograph with the administration.

7.Lack of Vehicle Availability for Visits to Military Hospital (Khadki):

Students are not provided with transportation to visit the Military Hospital, Khadki, even in cases of urgent and emergency medical need.

8.Parental Visits and Per-Meal Charges:

When parents come to meet their wards, they are allowed to eat in the mess only after paying per meal. We fail to understand why parents — who are already paying substantial fees — are treated as outsiders and monetised during their visit. This policy is both disrespectful and illogical.

9.Humiliation Over Food Delivery:

A student's prepaid food order arrived five minutes after the 10 PM curfew. The Registrar refused to allow the student to collect it and allegedly stated he would "feed it to the dog." Such language and behaviour are not just inappropriate but deeply degrading.

III. Our Appeal: Immediate Intervention and Structural Reforms

Sir, these issues are not isolated incidents but part of a systemic collapse in ethics, management, and student welfare. We do not seek confrontation — we seek prompt justice and reform.

We respectfully request the following immediate actions:

- 1. Replacement of the Principal (Dr. Madhushree Joshi)**
Due to academic mismanagement, suppression of student rights, discriminatory behaviour, and repeated mental harassment.
- 2. Corrective measures for Registrar (Col. Suneel Mann)**
For misuse of authority, unprofessional conduct, mistreatment of students and parents, and failure to maintain an academic environment of dignity and respect.
- 3. Reinstatement of the Student Council**
The Council must be re-established as an **independent student body**, free from interference by the administration, and allowed to represent student concerns transparently.
- 4. Formation of an Independent Fact-Finding Commission**
This body should consist of academicians **with no links to SPPU** or the current administration. The **Chairperson must be elected by a majority vote of the teaching faculty**, with no involvement from the Principal or Registrar.
- 5. Immediate Constitution of a Neutral Grievance Redressal Committee**
To enable students to submit complaints without fear of retaliation. This body must be independent of the current administrative leadership.
- 6. Full Financial Transparency**
All details regarding NCC fees, hostel expenditures, and use of college funds must be disclosed to students and parents to ensure accountability.

This letter is not written in haste or emotions, it is a reasoned and urgent appeal by students under extreme academic, psychological, and emotional distress. We are made to feel like inmates, not learners. We are denied our voice, stripped of our rights, and subjected to administrative overreach.

As law students, we are taught to stand up for justice. Today, we are demanding that justice be served within our own institution.

We look to you, Sir, as our last hope. We urge you to intervene immediately and decisively to restore the values this college was meant to uphold.

We are ready to provide supporting documents, testimony, and evidence as required, and request an opportunity to be heard by an unbiased committee.

With hope and respect,

We, the Students of Army Law College, Pune

