

Case Study

Clicking and posting zoomed in pictures of female students

Background:

Within the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) at the BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus, a concerning case unfolded involving a male student (FD) who, grappling with loneliness, engaged in unacceptable behavior. FD covertly captured pictures of female peers and juniors, exploited a friend's Google login, zoomed in on private body parts, added derogatory captions, and disseminated the images online.

Investigation

The ICC conducted a thorough investigation, gathering evidence that clearly demonstrated a violation of privacy, trust, and the institution's code of conduct. The emotional distress experienced by the victimized students was taken into careful consideration.

Punishment awarded

In response to the gravity of the offense, the ICC imposed a stringent penalty: the **cancellation of FD's registration for three semesters**. This decisive action aimed to protect the victims' dignity, uphold campus integrity, and send a strong message against such reprehensible behavior.

Deterrence Message

This case serves as a **stern warning** to all students that invasive actions and breaches of privacy will result in severe consequences. The ICC is resolute in fostering a campus environment where every student feels secure and respected. Any attempt to compromise this ethos will be met with **unwavering disciplinary actions**.

Conclusion

The ICC's dedication to upholding ethical standards and ensuring a secure campus environment is resolute. The strict punishment in this case underscores the seriousness with which such actions are treated. Through proactive education and decisive disciplinary measures, the ICC strives to create a campus where students flourish in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust.

Note to Students: Reporting Unwanted Photography or Invasion of Privacy

Dear Students,

At ICC, BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus, we are deeply committed to maintaining a safe and respectful environment for everyone. The recent case of inappropriate behavior involving the unauthorized clicking and sharing of zoomed-in images of female students is a stark reminder that privacy violations will not be tolerated. We understand that such incidents can cause immense emotional distress, and we are here to support anyone who feels their privacy has been compromised.

If you ever feel that someone is clicking or sharing pictures of you without your consent, here's how you can report it:

1. **Document the Incident:** If you suspect someone is taking your picture without permission, try to gather any evidence that can support your claim. This might include noting the time, location, and the individuals involved. If possible, take a picture of the person or situation without putting yourself in harm's way.
2. **Speak to Someone You Trust:** It can be helpful to first talk to a friend, classmate, or mentor about what you experienced. They can provide emotional support and help you decide on the next steps.
3. **Contact the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC):** The ICC is here to assist with all privacy concerns and any form of harassment. You can reach out to us directly by:
 - a. Sending an email to icc@hyderabad.bits-pilani.ac.in
 - b. Contacting us from any of our social media handles
 - c. Contacting any of the members of the ICC
4. **Confidentiality is Assured:** We understand that privacy is of utmost importance in such sensitive situations. The ICC handles all complaints with complete confidentiality, and your identity will be protected throughout the investigation process.
5. **Seek Emotional Support:** Being a victim of privacy invasion can be emotionally challenging. Don't hesitate to reach out to the MPower or our student members if you need someone to talk to. Your well-being is our priority.

Remember: Your privacy is your right, and any violation of it is a serious offense. The ICC is committed to ensuring that such acts are dealt with promptly and strictly. We encourage you to speak up and report any behavior that makes you uncomfortable or compromises your sense of safety.

Together, let's continue to foster a campus environment where everyone feels respected and secure.