

**6.7. Code of conduct for candidates and election administrators**

6.7.1. No candidate shall indulge in, nor shall abet, any activity, which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic, or between any group(s) of students.

6.7.2. Criticism of other candidates, when made, shall be confined to their policies and programs, past record and work. Candidates shall refrain from criticism of all aspects of private life, not connected with the public activities of the other candidates or supporter of such other candidates. Criticism of other candidates, or their supporters based on unverified allegations or distortion shall be avoided.

6.7.3. There shall be no appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing vote. Places of worship, within or without the campus shall not be used for election propaganda.

6.7.4. All candidates shall be prohibited from indulging or abetting, all activities which are considered to be 'corrupt practices' and offences, such as bribing of voters, intimidation of voters, impersonation of voters, canvassing or the use of propaganda within 100 meters of polling stations, holding public meeting during the period of 24 hours ending with the hour fixed for the close of the poll, and the transport and conveyance of voters to and from polling stations.

6.7.5. No candidate shall be permitted to make use of printed posters, printed pamphlet, or any other printed material for the purpose of canvassing. Candidates may only utilise handmade posters for the purpose of canvassing, provided that such handmade posters are procured within the expenditure limit set out herein above.

6.7.6. Candidates may only utilise handmade posters at certain places in the campus, which shall be notified in advance by the Election Commission/university authority.

6.7.7. No candidate shall be permitted to carry out procession, or public meetings, or in any way canvass or distribute propaganda outside the university/college campus.

6.7.8. No candidate shall, nor shall his/her supporters, deface or cause any destruction to any property of the university/college campus, for any purpose whatsoever, without the prior written permission of the college/university authorities. All candidates shall be held jointly and severally liable for any destruction/defacing of any university/college property.

6.7.9. During the election period the candidates may hold processions and/or public meetings, provided that such processions and/or public meetings do not, in any manner, disturb the classes and other academic and co-curricular activities of the college/university. Further, such

procession/public meeting may not be held without the previous written permission of the college/university authority.

6.7.10. The use of loudspeakers, vehicles and animals for the purpose of canvassing shall be prohibited.

6.7.11. On the day of polling, student organisations and candidates shall -

- (i) cooperate with the officers on election duty to ensure peaceful and orderly polling and complete freedom to the voters to exercise their franchise without being subjected to any annoyance or obstruction;
- (ii) not serve or distribute any eatable, or other solid and liquid consumables, except water on polling day;
- (iii) not hand out any propaganda on the polling day.

6.7.12. Excepting the voters, no one without a valid pass/letters of authority from the Election Commission or from the college/university authorities shall enter the polling booths.

6.7.13. The Election Commission/college/university authorities shall appoint impartial observers. In the case of deemed universities and self-financed institutions, government servants may be appointed as observers. If the candidates have any specific complaint or problem regarding the conduct of the elections they may bring the same to the notice of the observer.

Observers shall also be appointed to oversee the process of nomination of students in institutions that are following the nomination model of student representation.

6.7.14. All candidates shall be jointly responsible for ensuring the cleaning up of the polling area within 48 hours of the conclusion of polling.

6.7.15. Any contravention of any of the above recommendations may make the candidate liable to be stripped off his candidature, or his elected post, as the case may be. The Election Commission/College/ University authorities may also take appropriate disciplinary action against such a violator.

6.7.16. In addition to the above mention code of conduct, it is also recommended that certain provisions of the Penal Code, 1860 (Section 153-A and Chapter IX-A 'Offences relating to election'), may also be made applicable to student election.