DHARAVI

Poverty:

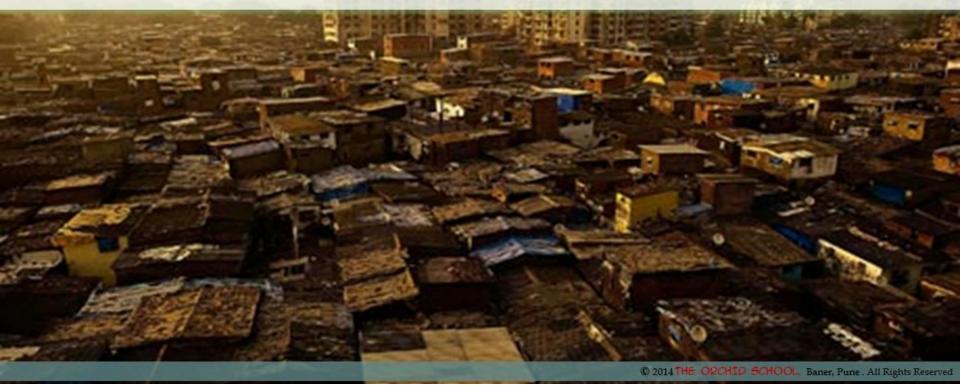
Case Study by

STUDENTS OF CLASS X

THE ORCHID SCHOOL

BANER, PUNE.





Dharavi Visit



As part of our study on poverty, we visited Dharavi, one of the largest slums in Asia. Dharavi is situated in the heart of Economical Capital of India – Mumbai.

Our perception of poverty



We think,

Slums

Crowded areas

Poverty

Forced condition

Compulsion

Unstable life

Our Perception ??



We think, given the opportunity to live in a better place, slum dwellers would grab it as soon as they could. But, what happens is:

Government offers of rehabilitation

Better living spaces

Most cases: Refusal by Slum dwellers to move

Reasons for refusal to move



What displacement means for slum dwellers:

Displacement

Moving away from their close neighbors, relatives

Moving away from place of work

Going away from the life they've adjusted to Don't want to go away from people with whom they've lived for years

Not moving even at the cost of losing out on a better living.

Reasons for refusal to move

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Observations in Dharavi



- Leaving their relatives or friends and settling in a new place acts as strong factors against rehabilitation of slum-dwellers
- At Dharavi, we observed that poverty, or rather specifically, living in slums, might be a choice rather than a compulsion.
- The people living in Dharavi are loyal to each other.
 They rather cheat an outsider than one among themselves.

Why Mumbai's slum rehab plan does not work



- The slums dwellers would remain in situ, robbing the real estate of its opportunities.
- Look at any slum, it is wonderfully located -- access to various points in the city, close to work opportunities.
- "It was not possible to remove them immediately as the hawkers have been there (on the pavements) for generations".
- Most of the residents are temporary stall owners or fish and vegetable vendors who clog the pavements.

Why Dharavi is so special?



- Dharavi is the home to many small scale industries such as textiles, pottery, leather works, bakeries and recycling.
- There is a lot of opportunities in Dharavi, prompting people from rural areas to migrate there for jobs.
- The conditions in Dharavi are a lot more attractive than those in villages, where the major occupation is farming. Living in Dharavi offers many other ways of livelihood using less labour and more pay.
- Dharavi has 60 municipality schools, four secondary schools and 13 private schools. Most children in Dharavi go to school now!!

Conclusion



- Poverty is not just linked economics or development. When we think of poverty we are think of "people". Hence it is also to do with people's social surroundings and emotions.
- People who are considered poor, may have their own views of growth and development which may not be achieved through the generalized government policies meant for them.
- In Dharavi, we saw that, for the people living there, social connections
 were more important than bigger houses or living in a building.
- They were not depressed at what they don't have. Instead they
 appreciate what they have and dwell on the love and support of the
 community.

We Feel that -

"Dharavi is not just a slum. It is a community in which each one contributes in their own way. There exits a strong emotional bond which dwarfs all monetary gains.

The people of Dharavi are leaving their own mark in the country's economy."

Thank you!



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