

Poverty :

DHARAVI

Case Study by

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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,

Poverty

Slums

Crowded areas

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:



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 exists 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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