

REPORT ON SWEDEN- WABLEWADI-TOS COLLABORATION PROJECT – DHARAVI TRIP

Dharavi – the largest slum in India is more than just that. It is a hub of life, work and industry. Most of which has to do with recycling. So, what better play to learn about sustainable development than one which works for exactly that.

Students of the Orchid school along with those of MediaGymnasiet had the opportunity of visiting Dharavi for the purpose of making a short documentary. Our journey started on the 18th of February when we started off from Pune in the morning. After a three hour drive we reached our hotel, which had a great view of the famous Marine drive. After relaxing for a bit, we went out for a walk along the Marine drive. Later on, we met with representatives of *No Footprints* who told us the do's and don'ts of Dharavi. They told us about the people, the culture that we would experience. Soon after we went for lunch and retired to our rooms.

The next morning, we were ready early for our adventure. On reaching Dharavi which was almost an hour from our hotel we met up with the tour guides. The tour guides were residents of Dharavi and hence knew its in's and out's. We were all divided into three teams and each had been given a camera for recording. Before starting our guides told us some information about Dharavi. We soon realized that Dharavi was a city in its own- it had cinemas, hotels, markets, everything.

In Dharavi our focus was on the recycling units of plastic. We first went to the center of plastic recycling where the segregation of plastic was taking place. Next, we went to the plastic cleaning section. As we went on we continued taking interviews of the people working at every station. We got one of the most beautiful answers when we spoke to a person owning a plastic grinding factory. He gave us a different perspective on what we think is a slum- about the fact that the dirt we see in slums and call out is nothing but the dirt we make. His words made us realize not only the errors of our ways but also the importance of Dharavi.

And soon our visit came to an end, but not before seeing the pottery section. This trip made us value all those people in our life who we don't give a second thought to. In all it was a great learning experience.