



## Dharavi Trip – Class IX – Jan 2017

At The Orchid School we have always believed in holistic education and we have many possibilities for the same through our Life Skill program. So as part of this program every year, students of Class IX are taken on a day's visit to Dharavi – the largest slum in Asia.

This program helps the students understand society as a whole unit and also makes them ponder upon the role of an individual in our society.

Dharavi, in addition to being an exporter, also boasts of different small scale and cottage industries. There is an increasingly large recycling industry employing 250,000 people. It is known to have an active informal economy, in which numerous household enterprises employ most of the slum residents, who otherwise would have resorted to abject poverty and destitute condition .It is of utmost importance that the students are aware and sensitive to realities of life.

The objectives for this visit were:

- To create awareness about the mutual influence of urbanization and slum development.
- To understand the flip side of urbanization
- To create awareness and to instill the value of respect for the differences in the realities, with respect to social changes, aspirations and how a mega city like Mumbai creates opportunity for all.



The students were divided class wise and were taken on three different days

- Class IX Mauve on 16th January 2017
- Class IX Lilac on 17th January 2017
- Class IX Amethyst on 18th January 2017

They were accompanied by 2 adults/teachers from school and were joined by a guide from the NGO group - "Reality Travels" in Dharavi.

It was an enriching experience for the students. They realised that there is much more to Dharavi than poverty.

Students were impressed by the fact that even the tours were conducted by Dharavi residents themselves and most of them were well educated and speaking good English. The buzz of industries left the students pondering and they realised that "Everything here was recycled; nothing was wasted ". Dharavi exports goods all over the world. All in all, it was an inspiring story about the ambition, ingenuity and hard work of people living in the harshest conditions.

[Click here to view pictures of the trip](#)