

Dharavi Assessment...

Our given hypothesis is “Living in a slum can only cause hardship and unhappiness”.

Dharavi is a small slum town in Mumbai. It is known for its community spirit and surprisingly amazing yet compact structures that some people believe to be a step forward in architecture. Below, is where Dharavi is located and some of the poorer and richer spaces.



In the red circle, is the Dharavi slum. It is a small place but you can walk for more than two hours and not get through.

Circled in yellow, are some of the utilities that they have in the slum. Although many people think slums are very poor, the Dharavi slum is well off for such a small, dirty place as they have things such as hotels and hospitals.

We did a study on two people who lived in the slum. Selvaraj and Arockia both live there and have done for a long time.

Selvaraj has quite a small family and is the sole earner for it. He has spent 27 years in the slum and he has quite a good job at the current time. He is doing fine in the slum, but wants to move as it isn't a very good thing to tell people you live there as he has been rejected from many jobs because of it in the past. He is getting a decent amount of money for that area and because he has a small family, is able to move. The slum is not known for unemployment and actually has less unemployment than us with 85% of people having a job and there are jobs such as air hostess and there was also an air technician.

Arockia has a small income but she goes to college which means that when she goes to get a job, she will earn more. Although she is getting a good education, she still lives in a small cramped house. Like many of the people who live there, she has to live in bad conditions. Most of the people there like their homes and keep them clean but space is always an issue so Arockia has a bathroom in the kitchen which can lead to illness and disease if not treated well enough.

The streets in Dharavi are very dirty and a lot of the time raw sewage runs through them and even when a pipe is fixed, it isn't clean. This means that children and adults are at a large risk of diseases and the lack of space means it can spread very far and it is very easy to die there. Also, the people are not able to get transport easily because the roads are muddy and it is very easy to get lost there. This means that people are less likely to be able to get to places quickly and that can be a problem for jobs because people are having to walk through muddy, dirty, winding roads for hours to get to work.



As you can see from the picture, people's houses, although small, are not as dirty as you might think. Many people take pride in how clean their house is and many houses actually have televisions and stereos because they want a way to see what is happening in the world. In the video we watched, we saw a family that were proud of their house eating on the floor. This meant that she has to clean up after but that was what she did every day to make her house nice. It is a common misconception that all slum houses are dirty but some are very happy with their house.

Because of the growing amount of people going to school and college in Daravi, more and more job opportunities are coming up for the inhabitants. Some of the jobs they can now access are:

- ◆ Air Hostess,
- ◆ Aircraft Maintenance,
- ◆ Doctor,
- ◆ Leather/ other material worker

Many people can now get a job and unemployment rates are lower than here as unemployment isn't an option because if you don't have money, you don't survive. Although the jobs are good, it is difficult to get one if they need the address. In the video, we saw a man that was declined a job because of his address. This means that people are losing out on work because people do not want a poor slum dweller to work for them which means the worker will lose money and not be able to move out anyway.

I partly agree with this statement as it states that living in a slum can be horrible and for some people, it is a terrible place and they cannot afford to leave but on the other hand, other people living there may say that although slums have a bad reputation, they have a sufficient job and are able to live in decent houses. Although the streets in the Dharavi slum are very dangerous, the statement suggests that living in the slum can only mean they are miserable. In one of the programs we watched, the presenter went in to see the slums well known community spirit. We saw that although they may not live in the nicest place, they enjoy being with their family and friends. Therefore I disagree with the proposed statement.