

Improving the quality of life in Dharavi



Over half the population of Mumbai live in informal settlements, known locally as slums. By far the largest of these is Dharavi. Although it is incorrect to call it the largest slum in the world, up to one million people are crowded into an area of 2.6 square kilometres. This makes it one of the most densely populated areas on Earth.

Factfile

- Over half the families have lived in Dharavi for over 50 years;
- Life expectancy is around 50 years of age;
- Wages can be £30 - £150 a month;
- 20% of the population are government officials such as police officers. This is one of the areas that they can afford to live on their salaries.
- There is one toilet per 1,500 people;
- 90% of the houses are illegal and not safe;
- There is a relatively low rate of crime;
- There are over 7,000 different businesses and 15,000 single room factories in the slum;
- Pottery, leather, plastics and steel are the most common industries;
- The slum is an important area for the recycling of materials;
- The businesses in the slum have a turnover of up to £700 million a year;
- Women are not allowed to work in the factories;

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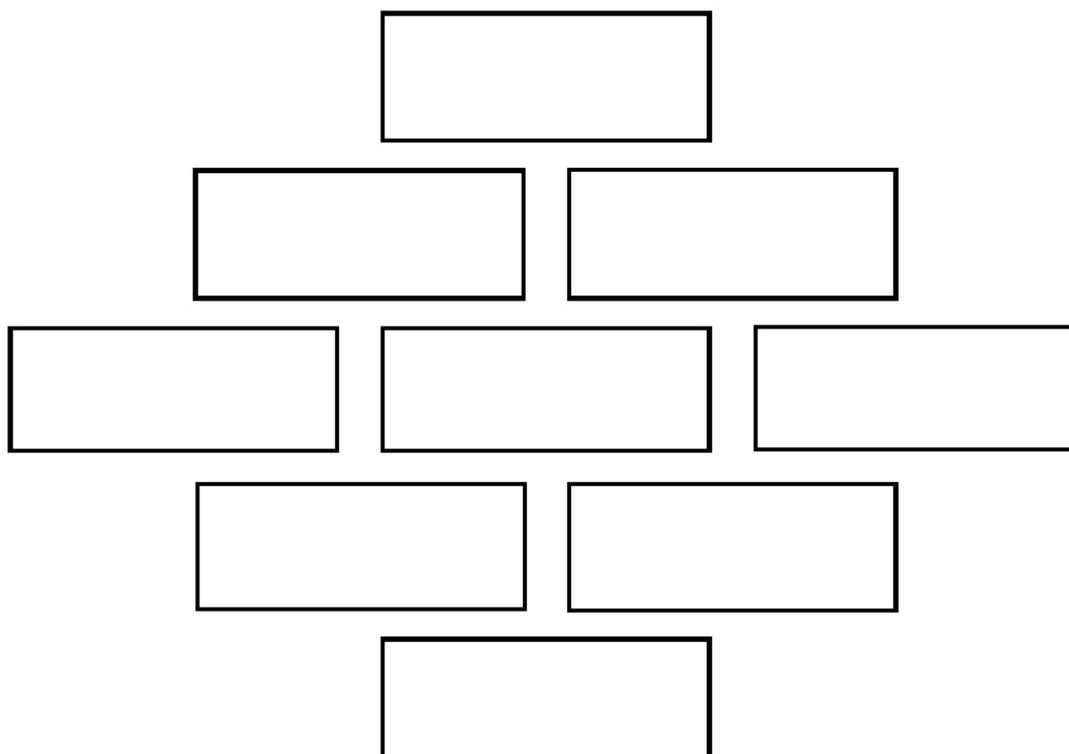
There have been many suggestions of ways to improve the quality of life for the residents of Dharavi. Nine are shown below. Try to think of the possible advantages and disadvantages of each method.

| Suggested way of improving Dharavi | Advantages | Disadvantages |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|
| Provide a clean, safe water supply | | |
| Charge tourists £8 to take a guided tour of the slum area | | |
| Provide concrete so residents can build stronger, safer houses and add another floor to their home | | |
| Give residents a free, new 28 square metre home in a tower block to make space for luxury high-rise homes | | |
| Make 'Dharavi' a brand name to help market and sell all the products produced in the slum | | |
| Upgrade streets, storm drains and communal buildings so that residents can upgrade their own homes and work spaces | | |
| Install modern toilet blocks to replace the dirty, dark, broken toilet blocks | | |
| Provide a legal and safe electricity supply to all slum homes | | |
| Work with the factory owners to release children from work so they can go to school | | |

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- Select the method you think would be best at improving quality of life in the slum and place it in the top box in the diamond.
- Select the method you think would be least successful and place it in the bottom box.
- Decide how successful the remaining methods would be and place them in the most suitable boxes in the diamond frame.
- Now justify your decision

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Clean, safe water supply | Charge tourists to take a tour | Provide concrete to build stronger, safer houses |
| Free, new home in a tower block | Make 'Dharavi' a brand name | Upgrade streets, storm drains and communal buildings |
| Install modern toilet blocks | Provide a legal and safe electricity | Allow children to go to school |



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- Cut out the boxes below which show the nine different suggestions of ways to improve the quality of life in Dharavi.
- Select the method you think would be best at improving quality of life in the slum and place it in the top box in the diamond frame.
- Select the method you think would be least successful and place it in the bottom box.
- Decide how successful the remaining methods would be and place them in the most suitable boxes in the diamond frame.

Provide a clean, safe water supply

Charge tourists £8 to take a guided tour of the slum area

Provide concrete so residents can build stronger, safer houses and add another floor to their home

Give residents a free, new 28 square metre home in a tower block to make space for luxury high-rise homes

Make 'Dharavi' a brand name to help market and sell all the products produced in the slum

Upgrade streets, storm drains and communal buildings so that residents begin to upgrade their own homes and work spaces

Install modern toilet blocks to replace the dirty, dark, broken toilet blocks

Provide a legal and safe electricity supply to all slum homes

Work with the factory owners to release children from work so they can go to school

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