

My Visit to Dharavi slum Mumbai

Last week, I had a chance to go to Mumbai and Aurangabad. I also went to Ellora and Ajanta caves. In this article, I'm not going to write about these great heritages because most of the people know about it.

I had time to visit places in Mumbai before going to Aurangabad. It was a good experience. So I would like to share my story of visit to the 3rd largest slums in the world called "Dharavi Slum" in Mumbai. Every country has a slum including Japan. The Japanese largest slum called "Airin district" is in Osaka.

I'm sorry there are no photos of the slum. I respect their living and I don't want to disturb it so I decided not to take photos of the same.

What do you think about slum? You might think people live in a slum, they don't have money, home, and job. Or you might also think the place of poverty.

These images are what I thought before going to the Dharavi slum.

First, 55% population (1,200,000) of Mumbai lives in a slum. The total area of Dharavi slum is 17,500,000 square meters and about 10,000,000 people live in this area. This means only 1,75 square meter space for a single person's living.

Secondly, there are some more than 10,000 jobs in this slum, such as plastic or metal recycling, leather craftsman, potter etc. Each day they only get Rs.250 for working under the very constraint work environment. Because of the air and water pollution, their lifespan is 50 to 55 years.

However, they try to get out from these slums. The "**Education**" is very important to overcome this circumstance. Because to get out of slum they must earn income. So, local NGO helped them to get these 3 pieces of knowledge. (1) Basic education: writing and reading Marathi, simple math (2) English: English skill is very important to get job (3) Life skill: How to behave in front of people. How to become confident.

I'm so impressed by their strong passion and toughness of heart that I will consider what I can do to improve their life style and not just by doing a donation.



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