



Livelihoods in Dharavi

Utpala Wandhare

Guide:

Prof. Chakravarthy

Objective:

Qualitative analysis of selected **internal** livelihoods to give a basic understanding of the urban slum.

Methodology:

1. **Document**-Observing daily life and various livelihood,
2. **Study**-Documentation through video and still images,
3. **Learning**-Conducting qualitative interviews,
4. **Analysing**,
5. **Conclusion.**

Urban Slums (Zopadpattis)



*Slums are not
'problems'*

*that have to be
'solved'*

*.....for the poor,
they represent a
'solution'.*



Trade-offs:

Poor hygienic living conditions----- Closer proximity to job
and markets.



Poor housing infrastructure-----Extremely affordable means
of
housing.



Low salary jobs-----Lack of
Jobs.



Inadequate infrastructure support-----Low overhead cost.



Livelihoods :





Livelihoods: Broad level-2 kinds

Internal:

livelihoods in which the residents earning livelihood by working for Dharavi or *Micro Entrepreneurs*.

External:

residents earning living by providing services for outside Dharavi or *Macro Entrepreneurs*.

Micro entrepreneurs

Mess services or 'B.C'



Dhobi



Idli makers



Broom makers



Sequin threading



Groundnut cleaning



Making plastic garlands



Finishing and decorating garments



Following entrepreneurs are of which qualitative analysis has been carried out:

- 1) Sequin (Tikli) threading,
- 2) Scarf tassel,
- 3) Dhobi,
- 4) Broom makers,
- 5) Mess services or 'B.C'

Learning and Analysis on 4 parameters:

- 1) Work,
- 2) Shelter,
- 3) Process,
- 4) Tools and Techniques.

1) Sequin (Tikli) threading



Analysis:

Work

1. Women contribute.
2. Housewives and children together to complete the task.

Shelter

Working has become the living style.

Process

1. Helps in speeding up the job of the zardosi craftsmen, by paying minimum charges.
2. work of similar character, keeps the women engage.

Tools and techniques

1. Finding out the correct and faster method to do the job.

2) Scarf Tassel Makers



Work

Women's needs makes them to come from long distances for work.

Shelter

Women are happy as they can take the work home and do.
So they are not divided into work and home responsibilities

Process

This work could have been carried out on a machine, but getting it done from these women is much cheaper.

Tools and techniques

The machine work is replaced by human hand, in case some mistake happens, the women are considered responsible.

3) Dhobis



Work

1. Men and women wash clothes at the dhobi ghat in the morning.

Shelter

1. The space used to carry out the activity has a huge tank, which has a water supply from the sewage, no proper water supply, stones around to beat the clothes on and a rail track besides where they dry the clothes.

Process

1. Clothes are major from the caterers, madapwalas, etc.

Tools and techniques

1. Found out their own innovative means to wash.
2. Magic works as the clothes are washed in the dirtiest condition, and still get cleaned.

- Firstly huge tin drums are used to boil the clothes,
- then the clothes are beaten up on a stone to clean them,
- sewage water is used ,
- clothes dried on the rail tracks

4) Broom makers



Work

Been into the broom making business and now are in a better position.

Aspire that now when they are better-off , they want their children to study and not continue with the business.

Shelter

1. Work happens from the house. The manufacturing is done outside the house in a corner.

Process

They buy the raw materials and sell them off.

Technology

1. Taking help of another person to do the broom making for them.

5) Mess service (B.C)



Livelihoods

1. The need was founded and then kept expanding the business.

Shelter

1. The area is just 10' by 10' where her living and work is carried out.
2. For sleeping they have constructed a loft on top.

Process

1. Single males who comprise a huge number in dharavi need food.
2. She makes a special style food for the Tamil group.

Tools and techniques

1. Using the normal stove, harness on manpower of her children and her husband.

Important comments made by the women workers:

Thread Trimmer ●

Hand Embroidery ●

Girl Broom seller ●

Flower Stingers ●

Papad ●

Idli ●

Shengdana ●

Critical Analysis:

Work

1. Women are the main working group carrying out these jobs.
2. There are social issues in a poor class society, like drinking habits of the male, women abuse, etc in the house. In which case the female goes out to support her family.
3. These jobs are a big support, as the female does not have to go out searching for a job.

Shelter

1. The females can bring the work at home, which are doable.
2. Home becomes the work area which also acts as living area, and the entire family is involved.

Process

1. The innovation is done in finding out the need and then starting up the business.
2. Most of the works cater to the macro entrepreneurs, which are quite unique in them.
3. Getting the job done from these women as then it does not come under the rules and they are paid very less.

Tools and techniques

1. People also find unique methods to do the job in a faster way. Example: tikli threading.
2. The macro level work speeds up and so the return is increased.
3. Manpower is harnessed to replace the simple technology as stitching machine, which saves the money on making a place available to do the job.
4. Most of the job involve doing by hand, but in some case they are provide with simple useful things.
Example the trimming scissors.

Conclusion:

These livelihoods come into existence at places where just the internal need of products or services arises.

These industries also provide services to the macro industry.

The services are on a very large percentage carried out by women too, as they can operate from home.

There are some workshops which aimed to cater to the needs only of their neighboring factories in Dharavi.



Livelihoods in Dharavi

Utpala Wandhare

Guide:

Prof. Chakravarthy