

Mumbai is a world city found in India with a population over 21 millions. In 1971 it was only 8 millions so it has grown rapidly.

The growth is due to 2 causes; a.the natural increase is high due to the high birth rate and declining death rate, and b. rural urban migration has brought many millions from the countryside, motivated by Push and Pull factors

Living conditions are very poor; there is little clean running water, piped water reaches < 20% of the population and many have to share standpipes which only provide water for a limited number of hours each day

Sanitation and hygiene are poor, few people have access to proper toilet facilities with only 1 for every 1000 people. The streets are often open sewers full of rats and this combined with the polluted water supply leads to major health problems.

Diseases such as typhoid and diphtheria cause many deaths and put a strain on the limited health services. This leads to a higher death rate than in the rest of Mumbai and life expectancy is significantly lower

More than 50% of the population of Mumbai live in slums / shanty towns / bustees, living on < 10% of the land area.The biggest of these is DHARAVI, where over 1 million people live on 1 square mile of land near the main financial centre of Mumbai.

This gives overcrowding as extended families live in small shacks and huts made from cardboard, corrugated iron and plastic sheets

Most employment is found in the informal sector with as many as 75% of the population working every day. Much of this involves recycling waste and there are over 5000 businesses and 15000 single rooms factories

New migrants flock to the city every day. These illegal squatters set up home in appalling conditions on wasteland near the river and on the flood plain where floods and fires are common

Other problems include the lack of electricity to many homes, 52% have no electricity, and the fact that much of the slum is built on a rubbish tip. Literacy levels are low at only 69% and industries such as brick kilns cause severe air pollution problems

