



# FROM HELL TO HEAVEN

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There is a crucial part of India slums that is both sad and tough for parents to go through. Adults and families all over do not have what they need to support their children with, and many children and infants are dying. Sanitation or money is not the only reasons why that they are dying, but by homicide by their own parents. Children that do not die in the slums and survive have to go through pretty much hell every day in piles and piles of garbage. Conditions in the slums are not satisfactory to human needs and cannot be tolerated, parents need help and children need to stop dying.

The condition the kids play in is not at all safe either, and they can easily be hurt and can cause health problems like the ones we talk about. They have no real safe place to go play at and very few of them have schools they can go to. India is a big country and has millions of people living there and slum-dwellers are part of that too. Their population decreases a lot each year and over many years, millions of children have died due to the living conditions.

India has the highest number of children that die in a year compared to any other country in the world. About two million children die each year with lack of health care. With this rate that keeps going on there is one child dying around every 15 seconds. The population of children in India is at about 240 million and just India alone supplies for 25% of children death in the entire world. With deaths being impacted and getting helped out they will have a huge impact because of the statistics. India is lacking from good health care to help the children who are dying and it is ranked among one of the worst countries with health care, 171st country out of 175.



# TO FILL THE BELLY

Nutritional problems like protein energy malnutrition (PEM), anemia and vitamin A deficiency continue to plague a large proportion of Indian children. The diets and nutritional status of urban slum children in India is far away from being satisfactory. The nutritional status of slum children is worst amongst all urban groups and is even poorer than the rural average. Urban migration has not provided them salvation from poverty and undernutrition. Another distressing feature is the lack of any significant improvement over the years in this population. Most common causes of malnutrition include faulty infant feeding practices, impaired utilization of nutrients due to infections and parasites, inadequate food and health security, poor environmental conditions and lack of proper child care practices. High prevalence of malnutrition among young children is also due to lack of awareness and knowledge regarding their food requirements and absence of a responsible adult care giver. With increasing urban migration in the years ahead, the problem of malnutrition in urban slums will also acquire increasing dimension unless special efforts are initiated to mitigate the health and nutrition problems of the urban poor. Improving nutritional status of urban poor requires a more direct, more focused, and more integrated strategy.

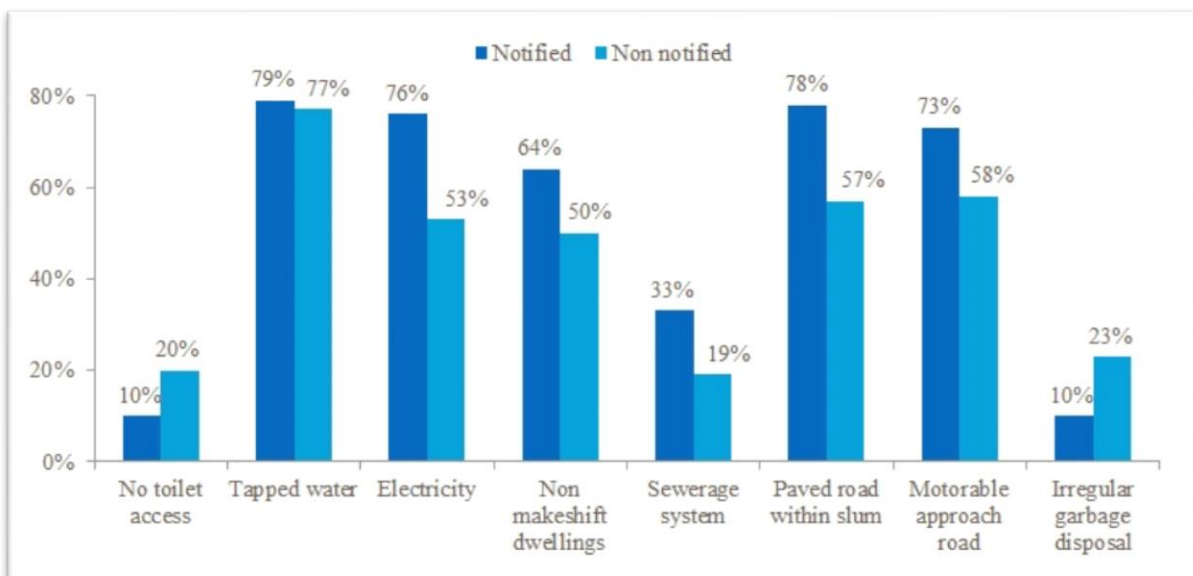
The physical environments of slums present many challenges to residents, particularly children. Even so, there are thriving communities in slums with strong social and economic networks. This article looks at the reality of growing up in slums in Delhi, and explores how well-intentioned slum improvement efforts can fail children. It concludes by identifying ways in which India's policy.





The challenge of rapid and unplanned urbanization that India is facing and will continue to face over the coming decades needs no introduction. Of the 93 million slum residents in India, 81 per cent have inadequate access to sanitation, according to a 2008-09 National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) survey on the characteristics of slums. That is to say, they lack the facility of either an individual toilet or a shared toilet. They are forced to depend on badly maintained and overcrowded toilet blocks or, for 15 per cent, have no form of toilet at all. Open spaces are thus the only option.

In this blog post we look at the scale of the challenge, the limits of current provision and the need for private investment and government support. More detail on the design of private provision options for slum sanitation is covered in a new Project Resource. This lack of sanitation has far-reaching effects: it imposes significant public health and environmental costs on urban areas that contribute more than 60 per cent of the country's GDP.



# LITERACY



Children living in informal settlements must grow up fast: they are often the informal solution for their families struggling to deal with daily problems involving infrastructure access and livelihoods. Children too often fetch water, watch over younger siblings and sick household members, and step into the role of productive contributors to help the household make ends meet. Saddled with these responsibilities, they must often limit or forego their schooling, cutting short their future educational potential and the economic and social opportunities, as well as skills which education affords. This vicious cycle of poverty is one of the biggest issues in development, and necessitates significant creativity to problem solving.

In Lagos, Action Health Inc. develops educational solutions that are accessible to out-of-school adolescent girls, including through evening classes and classes coordinated with childcare to enable students to balance their household responsibilities with their education. They have also developed community sports programs to create social spaces where youth can interact in a fun and healthy environment. Action Health Inc. provides easy-to-access business development, entrepreneurship programs, and personal finance education to build girls' economic empowerment, and offers mentorship programs with successful working women in the community. By promoting weekly debates and community service projects, the school offers an enabling environment from which students will be able to create their own path out of poverty and become proactive and engaged citizens and leaders who can achieve real change in their society.



# AS AN ENGINEER

This companion document to David Singleton's ICE Brunel International Lecture sets out how engineers can collaborate to alleviate poverty.

Poverty Alleviation: the role of the engineer', by David Singleton (Chair of Arup's global Planning practice), is the companion document to the ICE Brunel International lecture by the same name.

Poverty alleviation in the developing world will invariably involve a contribution from professional engineers. However, such initiatives are too often unsustainable. The sustained alleviation of poverty through the implementation of infrastructure solutions requires attention to the underlying social, economic and political influences. The engineering profession should not accept a role of supporting poor policy with 'good engineering'.

The role of the engineer is important but the engineer must work in collaboration with other professionals if sustainable poverty alleviation is to occur. Engineering solutions to poverty situations must take account of socio-political and economic frameworks, if they are to achieve medium to long-term sustainability.

Creative engineering solutions to alleviate poverty can be achieved when the engineering profession acts to meet the challenges posed by urban generation 'Infrastructural development: Roads and public health,' said that water and sewerage cannot be placed in isolation in a sustainable urban development developing world. One way to face these challenges is Education but it is a slow process so on the Engineers behalf infrastructure is one need which can be fulfilled.



# MY VIEWS



As a software engineer there is not much we can do, as Indian slums are still lacking the basic needs like clean water, food, sanitation, which is the part to be fulfilled by infrastructure projects. But to spread education all over these slums is major job as education accounted for the change of the society. The children in slum require access to Internet. If they are not able to attend school, at least they can use Internet to understand. So as an engineer we can provide them access to free internet and device to use them cheap tablets. We can develop apps on mobile which can provide them proper information about the first-aid of a disease and the importance clean surroundings. Clean drinking water is the need of every living organism so to develop systems which purify the contamination of water and purify it on its own will be a ground breaking invention. This is my responsibility as a citizen and as an engineer to help those who have been left behind in the fast growing world.

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