

# Vrddhi Sthan - A brighter future for Dharavi

(Learn)

(Place)

Designing a learning and community center for growing to increase the education rate in the biggest slum in Asia

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## The Challenge

Dharavi, Mumbai, India, is classified as the biggest slum in Asia. Children in Dharavi do not get quality formal education because of their lower-caste status, expense, and the lack of educational institutions in the area of Dharavi. They normally end up choosing to work to provide for their family at a young age rather than pursuing education because of the lack of opportunities.



<https://unequalscenes.com/mumbai>

## Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)



Designing these learning and educational centers would increase the quality of education and also the education rate of the children of Dharavi.



This intervention would contribute to good health and well-being as families in Dharavi would be able to have better access to medical and health related institutions.



Building these facilities and community centers would reduce the inequalities between in India as people in Dharavi would have somewhat similar experiences to people in the city.



This initiative would promote equity, peace within the community, and strong educational and community institutions.



This proposal intends to increase the job opportunities of the people of Dharavi making it comparable to the job opportunities in the city of Mumbai, thus affecting the economic growth in a positive way.

## Why education and community

The reason why I decided to go with the approach of designing with regards to education and growing is because innovation is what drives the society of today and the youth of Dharavi would miss out on opportunities to innovate if action is not taken. At first, I had the idea to completely redesign the whole area (urban planning), but I did not want to relocate people from their homes to somewhere they find uncomfortable. In this situation, the children and the people of Dharavi are the first priority, especially when most people living in Dharavi own their businesses which is the only source of income for the family. The sense of community within the people of this area is very strong, therefore, I wanted to play to this strength and design a place that the community could gather in.

# The Solution

## The Idea

Designing a learning and community center for growing to increase the education rate in the biggest slum in Asia (Dharavi). Creating spaces that encourages learning, growing, and collaboration. A major part of this intervention is the way learning intersects with community and growth. A main purpose of this project is to reduce the divide between the city of Mumbai and Dharavi by altering the urban fabric in a positive light.



## Mind Map and Site Analysis



## Size comparison

Size

Dharavi, Mumbai - 0.923 square miles

Chicago, Illinois - 231.7 square miles

Population

Dharavi, Mumbai - 2.7 million

Chicago, Illinois - 1 million

The area of Dharavi in the map of Chicago

This comes to show how densely populated Dharavi is compared to other big cities all over the world.

