Mumbai

‘YOUNG’ CITY WITH AN OLD HISTORY
MUMBAI: GEOGRAPHY

27,000 /sq. km.
BOMBAY ISLANDS, 1906
A HISTORY

- Established by the Portuguese – a group of seven islands that formed a sheltered harbour.
- Bom bai---’Good’ Bay
- Given as dowry to the British on the marriage
- British developed it as a port and a trading and manufacturing centre.
EARLY GROWTH

- Modern textile industries.
- Import of labour from the surrounding countryside.
- Housing for the labour/
- ‘Chawl’ system and its impact on Mumbai’s ethos and life perspectives even today.
Mumbai accounts for yearly
33 % of India’s income tax collection,
20 % of all central excise tax collections,
40 % of the India's foreign trade; and generates
Rs 40 billion (US$ 9 billion) in corporate taxes.
Annual Budget (2009-10) Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM): Rs 19749.60 crore (USD 4,120 million)
several times larger than that of many small Indian states.

Sources:
Mumbai has a per capita income of Rs 50,000 over three times for the rest of India.
DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME GROUPS

- Graph 1: Distribution of Income Groups, Mumbai

- In sum Mumbai is a middle class city which manifests sharp divides buffered by the middle class.

- Source: Compiled from various government sources
SPATIAL INCOME DISTRIBUTION

- * No significant poor-rich segregation of city areas
- >35% of poor live in central and northern parts
- 20% of top income groups live in central part
- However, there has been a gradual shift towards removing poor housing and slums from rising middle class localities in the name of beautification of the city. Middle class activism often targets lower income and working class neighbourhoods and seeks their removal. **
CITY DEMOGRAPHY

- Population (Census 2001): 188.93 lakh (i.e. 10 per cent of India’s urban population)
- Population Density: 27,000 /sq. km.
- Sex ratio (no. of females to 1000 male) of 833
- Literacy: Males: 82 %; Females: 72 % (more or less true even in slums)
- Population Characteristics:
  - Resident (not indigent) workers: 38 % of total population of Greater Mumbai (2001 Census).
  - Migrants entering in 1991: 0.28 million
  - Migrants comprised 17 per cent of the population increase in 1990s.
  - Years of residence: 25 % --< 10 years; 26 % -- > 20 years
  - Average age at migration: 24 years
It is not so much a melting pot of language groups, religions, communities and castes, as a well-blended mix or ‘bhelpuri’, Mumbai’s well-known spicy street food of puffed rice, salad vegetables

4. Religious Groups:
   - Hindus: 68 %
   - Muslims: 17 %
   - Christians: 4 %
   - Buddhists: 4 %
   - Parsis, Jains, Sikhs, Jews and others: 17 %

Languages spoken: 58 (unofficial)

5. Ethnicity/Regional groups
   - Maharastrians: 50 %
   - Non-Maharashtrians (South Indians, Gujaratis, Sindhis, Parsis, North Indians): 50 %.
Cultural capital

- Mumbai’s entertainment industry makes it a cultural capital---even though it’s a melting pot of classical arts.
- TV production is a major industry providing opportunities for millions.
Opppportunities in ‘Dream’City

- The film and entertainment world is a huge draw and provider of employment;
- Old industries like textiles and big manufacturing are dying and moving away;
- Service industries, IT and information-based industries are growing;
- Most importantly it’s the capital of informal sector—manufacturing, commerce, trade, communications.
‘Maximum’ City

- It’s a highly competitive city.
- There is room for an ordinary night-school student to become an academic; or door-to-door salesman to become an industrialist. The film world both a vendor of dreams and a stage upon which to enact those dreams.
- This means the struggle to succeed is intense.
How equitable is the city?

- In terms of access to services in our youth survey while more than 75 per cent felt that most people had access to most services like water, electricity, less than half felt that they were well organised. That is, services can be somehow obtained, but not as a matter of right.
Mumbai has been developing plans for city development over a long time—but that does not mean that it is a planned city.

An equitable and sustainable city has never been the central focus.
Income levels and perceptions
The city and the western region have had a long history of people’s activism. However, while it was the locale of labour agitations, it has never been a vibrant youth organisation acting affiliated or unaffiliated.
Political activism and political processes do not appear to find takers among the city’s youth. It wasn’t disinterest, they said rather a lack of time that made young people unwilling to participate in any sort of political activity. And yet, in times of need it is the young who have mobilised to lend support and protested the inequality of treatment to social groups.
JULY 2005, MUMBAI FLOODS
MUMBAI TERROR ATTACKS
Is gender a particular factor in exclusion?

Not in the city, said the participants.

Both men and women agreed that the city was safe for women, and no occupation or activity was barred to women. It was up to them to make use of these.
Important factors

- Access to Education is the single most important factor in bridging the urban divide. Even in cities like Mumbai where there are number of opportunities for earning money, at some point the lack of education is a barrier to progress.

- Provision of learn while you earn schemes, like Mumbai’s night schools, is important.
Some pointers
Critical to creating a city of equal opportunities is the access to information.

“Whatever the programmes and schemes, unless people know about it, they are useless.”

There is plenty of evidence today that this is in need so.
In sum, the youth survey and this UNHABITAT report has not only provided valuable information, but has shown that young people are good at assessing problems in society; Are inherently conscious of issues of inequality; Are remarkably perceptive in assessing the reasons for the divide; And are capable of designing resolutions to these problems that affect them and their futures.
Thank you