

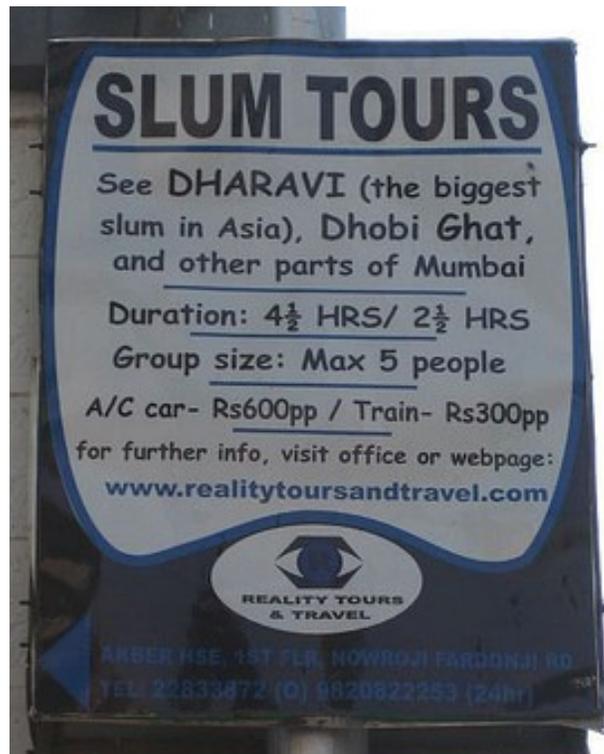


2017/2017 Debate Research Package

Topic 3

JH and SH

Topic 3: This House Supports (THS) Slum Tourism



Topic 3: This House Supports Slum Tourism.

This research booklet is intended as a starting point for both junior and senior high students. Debaters are expected to conduct their own additional research. Ideas presented are intended to be a starting point for inspiration and debaters should broaden the scope of the debate to encompass other areas of discussion beyond what is presented here.

Model and Definition

Proposition team should create fair and balanced definitions for the debate. A model may not be necessary for this debate, though Proposition teams should feel free to include one if they desire and should not be penalized for doing so.

This debate is intended to be taken normatively, meaning that Opposition does not have to argue for criminalizing slum tourism, merely that it is an illegitimate activity that ought not be endorsed.

Slum tourism is a type of tourism where visitors travel to impoverished areas. It has become increasingly popular with favelas in South America, townships in South Africa, and slums in Asia being among the most popular tourist attractions.

Potential Proposition Arguments

1. Slum tourism provides valuable visibility to the people living there

Residents of slums are often marginalized with little social or political capital due to their economic degradation. As a consequence, domestic governments are less likely to attend to the needs of slum residents. International attention due to tourists visiting these slums and seeing the living conditions will give these people more visibility and put pressure on the government to improve these living conditions.



2. **Slum tourism dispels common stereotypes about poverty**

Western perceptions of poverty in other countries are often based on numerous stereotypes that are inaccurate and harmful (ie. slums are dark, dangerous, and riddled with disease and crime). While these places are not ideal places to live, in reality, there are businesses and strong community connections that exist in slums. Visiting these places first hand helps erode negative stereotypes surrounding poverty, generating more compassion and interest in helping lift people up.

3. **Slum tourism provides monetary benefits to residents of poor communities**

Artisans and local businessmen based out of these slums are able to sell their wares to tourists, leading to direct economic benefits for the people living in these slums. Furthermore, companies that run tourism trips out to these slums can be associated with charities that donate proceedings to these slums. As a result, the standard of life in these places will increase over time.



Potential Opposition Points

1. **Slum tourism treats residents of these places as specimens on display.**

When foreigners invade their homes, residents feel as if they are figures in a museum. The common phrase, “look but don’t touch” applies to their situation. These tourists are all too willing to see the kind of condition they live in, but when it comes to helping, not many wish to get their hands dirty. Many residents feel that their right to privacy is violated.



2. **Money is mostly used up by tourism companies and not much reaches the community. Profit from poverty (Underpaid and exploited)**

Tourism companies keep the profit for themselves and only give a small fraction to the population of the slums. These companies showcase poverty as a means to acquire more money for themselves, ironically. This form of exploitation leaves these people’s homes disturbed and in the same or worse condition than they were before

3. **Slum tourism glamorizes poverty.**

Tourists see poverty as something almost exotic or one of a kind. Since they are only there for a short time, they feel that this image of poverty is fascinating, however poverty remains even after the tourists leave. The tourists do not realize the harsh reality that comes with the poverty in the slums.



Links for Research:

<http://www.women-on-the-road.com/slum-tourism.html>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-19546792>