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### Kolkata: The Worst Place to Live

Kolkata is a bustling megacity in India, renowned for its grand architecture and colorful culture. Despite this rich cultural heritage, Kolkata is often considered the worst place to live in India due to its various issues, such as overpopulation, air pollution, poverty, and crime. This essay will explore why Kolkata has earned this unfortunate reputation and how these problems can be addressed. In Kolkata, overpopulation has led to overcrowded living conditions and limited resources; the impact of air pollution on public health; poverty levels, and, finally, criminal activity in the city.

Kolkata, India, is one of the most densely populated cities in the world. The population density of Kolkata is about 20,000 people per square kilometer, making it one of the worst places to live in terms of overcrowding and a lack of space for comfortable living (Żegleń et al.). This means that the city's infrastructure struggles to keep up with its ever-growing population, leading to congested roads, inadequate public transportation systems, poor air quality due to high levels of vehicle emissions, and an overall lack of resources such as education and healthcare. Additionally, poverty rates are exceedingly high in this city due to limited job opportunities; this makes access to basic necessities difficult for many individuals who live there. As such, Kolkata has been deemed one of the worst places to live in terms of overcrowding, poverty, and inadequate infrastructure.

The city has some of the most extreme poverty in India, with almost one-third of its population living below the poverty line (Żegleń et al.). This can lead to desperation and crime, which makes it a dangerous place to live or visit. Kolkata has one of the highest poverty rates in India and is home to more than 5.7 million people, many of whom live below the poverty line (Żegleń et al.). This extreme poverty leads to a host of other problems, such as poor housing, inadequate access to clean water and sanitation facilities, lack of education opportunities, malnutrition, and little or no access to medical care. The city also has a high crime rate due to its large population living in difficult circumstances, often leading to desperation for some individuals. Robbery, assault, and pickpocketing are common occurrences in Kolkata's streets, and there have been violent crimes against women too (Żegleń et al.). The economic disparity between rich and poor residents is starkly evident here, too, with luxury apartments and five-star hotels existing side by side with slums and overcrowded makeshift shelters.

Kolkata has long been plagued with high levels of air pollution caused by a combination of factors. Poor urban infrastructure and inadequate public transport are primarily responsible for the issue, as they contribute to increased traffic congestion and heightened emissions of pollutants from vehicles. The city also relies heavily on low-quality fuels such as coal, wood, and kerosene for cooking and heating purposes, leading to further increases in air pollution. Consequently, Kolkata has recorded some of India's highest levels of particulate matter (PM) (Żegleń et al.). PM is an airborne mixture comprising dust, dirt, and other solid particles that can cause serious health problems if breathed in over a prolonged period. Research suggests that Kolkata's PM concentration is more than four times the World Health Organisation's safe limit. As a result, respiratory illnesses such as asthma and bronchitis are becoming increasingly common in the city, as well as other health hazards like cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

Kolkata is characterized by extreme poverty, overcrowding, and environmental degradation. This makes it one of the worst places in the world to live, as residents face various difficulties regarding housing, employment opportunities, education, and access to necessities. Additionally, the city suffers from high levels of crime and air pollution, which can seriously affect one's health. Given these issues, it is clear that Kolkata is a place where only some would like to reside or visit.



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Work Cited

Żegleń, Magdalena, et al. "The Relationship among the Age at Menarche, Anthropometric Characteristics, and Socio-economic Factors in Bengali Girls from Kolkata, India." *American Journal of Human Biology*, vol. 32, no. 4, July 2020. DOI.org (Crossref), <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajhb.23380>.



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