Added to the housing problem is the insecurity associated with the threat of eviction. Evictions often come with “justifications”: urban beautification; claims of illegal occupation of public and private land; construction if infrastructure; major international events and political, military and ethnic reasons.

The scale of the problem is staggering. Forty percent of the population of Karachi, Pakistan live in slums and squatter settlements. In Manila, the capital city of the Philippines, the figure is 32%. In Mexico City, it is over 50%. In Cairo Egypt, more than 1 million people live in the city’s cemeteries, while many others sleep in mosques. In Lima Peru around half the cities population live in inner city slums, and another quarter in squatter settlements. Around half a million people live and sleep on the streets of Kolkata, India; some 3.5 million people (nearly 20% of the population) live in legal slums, or Bustees, and refugee settlements. A recent survey of a typical two-story apartment in Delhi found 518 people (106 separate households) living in 49 rooms, or 1.5 m2 per person.

**Source: Kleeman, G (2008) Global Interaction: Second Edition.p 139- 140. Melbourne: Pearson Education Australia.**