

## Water for Everyone ★ Unit 3 Resource B

# A moral dilemma in Goa

### DAMODAR'S STORY



When the English lady told me she was thinking of buying one of the new apartments beside my village, my heart sank. She meant no harm but how could she know that she was part of the reason our whole way of life could be lost?

This new tourist place is bad news for my village. It's hard enough having to share our beach with tourists. But now we've heard that our water supply is going to be used by them too.

Everywhere in Goa, water for tourists seems more important than water for locals. We only get piped water to our homes every second day for two hours, and even this needs treating before we can use it. As for our well water, it's dirty and not fit to drink. It's a big problem for us and getting worse.

We know hotels siphon off water from village pipelines. People say the water levels in some wells close to new tourist buildings have dropped because developers have dug boreholes near them. Now it seems this will be our fate too. We may even have to move.

Things are bad inland as well. Our rivers are being harmed by waste and sewage dumped in them by hotels and restaurants. Sometimes this ends up in farmers' rice fields. I know farmers who have reported sores and rashes on their legs after wading through dirty water.

I get so angry at the greedy developers and corrupt officials here. They just don't care as long as plenty of tourists want what they build. We have tried to protest, but no one will listen. In the government's eyes what is happening is "progress" and we should not stand in the way.

That nice English lady doesn't see any problem with her plans. I see it very clearly. We could lose everything, just to make tourists comfortable and give investors a quick profit.