

# Drought

## Push and Pull Factors Case Study

India's drought migrants head to cities in desperate search for water

The drought has affected 330 million people in India this year, according to government figures. About 15% of India's gross domestic product comes from agriculture and 68% of the 1.3 billion population are farmers. With no water for irrigation, the drought has been devastating for farmers. Like the Kummaries, hundreds of families have had to leave their lands in search of water.

Extreme weather linked to climate change is becoming increasingly common in India. Last year, hundreds of people were killed by floods in Chennai, a city on the Bay of Bengal in eastern India.

Across the country, schools in many villages have closed. In some places, doctors have postponed surgeries saying they don't have water to wash their hands after procedures. With no harvest and no water, villagers are flocking to cities, where water is more easily available.

The drought migrants have no homes in the city; some have made makeshift shelters on construction sites, footpaths and park benches. The villagers have no work and no cash, and many are forced to beg. The rural exodus is becoming a burden for authorities in Mumbai, who say they need help to provide food, shelter and jobs to the displaced people.

In Mumbai, water is more easily accessible, though, even here, only wealthier parts of the city have 24-hour supply. In the settlement of Murtinagar, the pipes only deliver water between 10.30am and 1pm. As soon as the water starts to flow, the slum comes alive and people rush to the pipes to fill up their plastic containers so they have enough for the day.



### Test your understanding:

1. What impact has the drought had on agriculture in India?
2. Is drought considered a push factor or a pull factor? Explain your answer.
3. What geographical process is causing the drought in India?
4. What are some of the social impacts of the drought?
5. What negative consequences have the migrants faced when they arrived to find a better life in the city?
6. Explain the reasons why people have left the rural area and moved to the city?
7. What is a *displaced person*? You may use the internet to help you create your own definition.

### Writing task:

Walking in the shoes of others...  
Write a diary entry describing a day in the life of a displaced person who has just to migrate to the city in search of a better life.

