

Haryanvi Caste Hindus



Quick Facts

Population: 14,000,000

Major Subgroups:

- Jat- 3,700,000
- Chamar- 2,000,000
- Brahman- 1,500,000
- Rajput- 1,400,000

Religion: Hindu

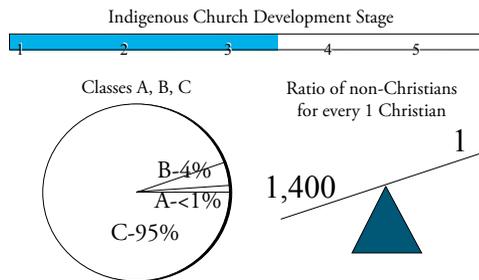
Believers: 0.07%

Scriptures: Portions

Ministry Tools: JG

C Status: 3 **M Status:** 2

MS Subgroups: 40+



Class A- Are members of a Culturally Relevant Church
 Class B- Have close access to a CRC, but have not yet joined
 Class C- Have no reasonable or close access to a CRC

Identity: Over 40 Hindu peoples use the Haryanvi language as their mother-tongue. They are the majority group in the state of Haryana, with minority populations in Punjab and Karanataka. There is a high percentage of “Forward Castes” among them (47% as compared to 15% in India as a whole). Haryanvi is an Indo-Aryan language closely related to Hindi and Urdu.

Lifestyle: The Haryanvis were major contributors to the “green revolution” in India during the 1970s, which aimed at making the nation agriculturally self-sufficient. Even today, the farming sector remains the most significant industry in Haryana. The major crops are wheat and rice, as well as cotton, oilseeds and sugarcane. Haryanvis are also famous for their dairy industry, which includes a special breed of water buffalo (Murrah).

Customs: Haryanvi Hindus value boys over girls and this has resulted in an

imbalance of male to female ratios (11 to 9 ratio) due to the selective abortions of female babies. As a result, there is now a shortage of available brides, leading to a growing trend of “purchasing” brides from neighboring states.

Religion: The name Haryana literally means “The Abode of God” and refers to Vishnu (Hari is another name for Vishnu, and in Sanskrit relates to the color of the Sun, signifying his role as the supreme deity in their pantheon). The majority of Haryanvi Hindu temples are dedicated to Vishnu and Shiva. Incarnations of Vishnu known as *avatars* are also worshipped, such as Rama and Narayan, which are essentially historical (or legendary) persons who have been deified. Haryanvi Hindus once prided themselves on their strict vegetarianism, though the latest generation is quickly abandoning this tradition.

Christian Outreach: Almost all of the Haryanvi peoples are without an

indigenous church, with the exception of a few lower caste groups (Dalits), among which several hundred fellowships have been established. Unfortunately, this response among the Dalits has only further served to alienate the upper caste majority peoples. There have been recent attempts to reach the Jat, which make up around one fourth of the Haryanvi population. However, the response has been limited, partially due to the fact that the missionaries are mostly Dalits from South India.

How to Pray:

🙏 Pray for an effective witness among the Haryanvi upper castes that will bring the gospel to these peoples in ways that are sensitive and relevant to their culture.

🙏 The Bible has yet to be translated in this major language. Pray for the immediate addressing of this need by global mission agencies.

🙏 There is a radical Hindu movement emerging in Haryana which is hostile to Christianity, and seeking to restrict its spread among the Dalits. Ask God to intervene supernaturally in this situation that the gospel would continue to advance among all segments of society.

**Every year 125,000
Marathi Muslims die
without Christ.**