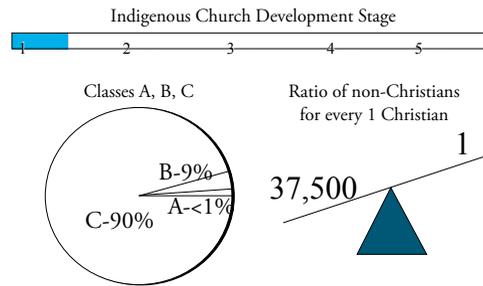


Muslim Punjabi



Quick Facts

Population: 75,000,000
 Pakistan: 74,500,000
 India: 250,000
 United Kingdom: 100,000
 Malaysia: 80,000
Religion: Islam (Sunni)
Believers: 0.002%
Scriptures: NT, OT
Ministry Tools: JRGT
Church Status: 1
Mission Status: 1
MS Subgroups: 100+



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: The Muslim Punjabi are the dominant people in the fertile Punjabi plains. The word Panj-aab means land of the five rivers. They are the descendants of the ancient Indus river civilization, which rivaled Mesopotamia and China at the height of its power. They speak over a dozen dialects, many of which require their own unique Bible translation.

Lifestyle: The Punjabi plain is a rich agricultural basin, suitable for growing wheat and cotton. 65% of Muslim Punjabi make their living from agri-related business. The remaining 35% are urbanized, living in such major cities as Lahore (6.25 million) and Karachi (12 million).

Customs: Muslim Punjabi society is organized around the *ghar*—a family based collective which pools its resources. A man's daughters will typically be married by the time they are 15, and they will join the *ghar* of

their husband's family. Even in urban areas and among Punjabi businesses, this practice continues, resulting in large household enterprises. Upon the death of the *ghar's* patriarch, the eldest brother assumes leadership.

Religion: Sunni Islam was introduced by the Turks, and within 200 years 75% of the Punjabis had been converted. About 8% of Muslim Punjabis are Shiite, and are persecuted by the Sunni majority. In 1895 a Shia Muslim sect emerged, known today as Ahmad-diyism. It is aggressively evangelistic and has been banned as a heresy by the Muslim World League. The founder proclaimed himself the Mahdi (the expected one, or messiah) and today there are about 3 million followers in Pakistan.

Christian Outreach: The Muslim Punjabi are the largest, most neglected unreached people group in the world. This is partly due to the significant response

of the Punjabi Hindus to the gospel. For the last 100 years missionary work has been largely limited to meet the needs of this growing community of believers. Due to the fact that these believers come from lower caste Hindu peoples, it is very difficult for them to reach out to their Muslim Punjabi neighbors, who mostly originated from higher caste peoples before the introduction of Islam.

How to Pray:

☞ Shariah law in Pakistan forbids the conversion of Muslims. Pray for the repeal of this law and for the protection of the courageous believers who have taken a stand for Christ.

☞ 250,000 Muslim Punjabi have immigrated to Great Britain. Ask God to use the believers there to sensitively share the gospel with their new neighbors.

☞ Some of the highest abuse of women in the Muslim world occurs among the Punjabi. Pray for their salvation and for an effective ministry among them.

☞ Pray that the government of Pakistan would not fall into the hands of Muslim extremists and that the rights of all religious groups

Every year 650,000 Muslim Punjabi die without Christ.

Muslim Punjabi (cont.)

30 Least-Evangelized Punjabi Muslim Peoples

People, Population, % Evangelical

Jat Muslims	28,000,000	0.00%	Dhobi Muslims	1,000,000	0.00%
Siraiki	15,000,000	0.00%	Khatri Muslims	980,000	0.00%
Rajput Muslims	14,500,000	0.00%	Qassab	900,000	0.00%
Arain Muslims	9,000,000	0.00%	Khoja	750,000	0.00%
Hindko	7,000,000	0.00%	Kamboh Muslim	750,000	0.00%
Awan Muslims	4,500,000	0.00%	Maliar	660,000	0.00%
Ansari	4,000,000	0.00%	Maliar	660,000	0.00%
Kumhar Muslims	3,000,000	0.00%	Jhinwar Muslim	640,000	0.00%
Mochi Muslims	3,000,000	0.00%	Barwala Muslim	460,000	0.00%
Tarkhan Muslims	2,500,000	0.00%	Meo Muslim	400,000	0.00%
Teli Muslims	2,300,000	0.00%	Chhimba Muslim	380,000	0.00%
Mussali	2,200,000	0.00%	Darzi Muslim	330,000	0.00%
Macchi Muslims	2,000,000	0.00%	Sonar Muslim	300,000	0.00%
Nai Muslims	1,800,000	0.00%	Changar	290,000	0.00%

Siraiki- The Siraiki are an ethno-linguistic bridge group between the Sindhi and the Punjabi (Siraiki dialects in the east blend into Punjabi, and in the south they blend into Sindhi). Both the Sindhi and Punjabi claim the Siraiki as a sub-group. However, central Siraiki dialects are considered different enough from both Punjabi and Sindhi to require a unique Bible translation project (the New Testament was completed by William Carey in Siraiki in 1819, but requires significant updating). Around 40% of the Siraiki are reported to be Baloch who have adopted Siraiki as their mother-tongue, and are gradually being assimilated into Siraiki culture and society. The region in which they live (S. Punjab) is rich in natural resources, though the Siraiki benefit little from this, which has prompted a strong independence movement since the 1960s.

Hindko- The Hindko are more of a linguistic sub-group (and ethnic melting-pot) within the Punjabi cluster, than a homogenous people group with a shared ethnic identity. Hindko speaking peoples are often referred to as Punjabi Pathans, due to the fact that large number of Pashtun tribes (Tareen, Jadoon, Tahirkhel, etc.) which settled in the Punjab adopted this Punjabi-related dialect. There are numerous other Punjabi related people-groups which speak Hindko (Awan, Rajput, Ansari, etc.) and have counterpart communities in other Punjabi related dialects. Almost all Hindko speakers are bilingual in Punjabi and may gradually be absorbed into the dominant Punjabi dialect (Western Punjabi) spoken in Pakistan. There is also a considerable degree of ethnic blending (Punjabi, Pathan, Karlal, etc.) among the Hindko speaking peoples due to increasingly relaxed restrictions on inter-marriage between communities.

Arain- The Arain are a gardening and cultivating caste that claim Arab descent. Although this claim is not uncommon among Muslim peoples in South Asia (who seek the prestige of having an unbroken link to Islam's beginning), recent genetic tests among them confirm this possibility. The most probable hypothesis about their origins seems to be that they are early converts from the Hindu Saini and Kamboh cultivator castes, with a considerable degree of intermarrying between Arab immigrants who followed the 8th century Muslim conquest of the Punjab. The four social rankings among them, listed in order of status are Mian, Chaudary, Ramay and Mehar. These are not sub-castes in the traditional sense, but are based on