

Rajasthani Muslims



Quick Facts

Pop. in South Asia: 5,500,000

Subgroups:

Shaikh: 2,000,000

Meo: 1,100,000

Merat: 200,000

Rajput: 100,000

Religion: Islam—Sunni, Shia

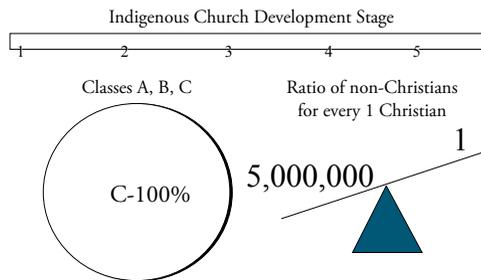
Believers: 0.00%

Scriptures: Portions

Ministry Tools: None

C Status: 0 **M Status:** 0

MS Subgroups: 80+



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: Converts to Islam among the Rajasthani Hindus first began in the 11th century among the Meo, which trace their ancestry back to the Rajput caste. Around this core group grew a wider community of Muslim immigrants and conversions from other Hindu castes, such that the entire Rajasthani Muslim community would often be referred to as the Meo.

Lifestyle: A high percentage of Rajasthani Muslims originate from upper caste Hindu peoples, and as such they enjoy a high standard of living in comparison to most other Rajasthanis. The community became famous for music, painting, and the arts, and enjoyed the patronage of both Hindu Rajputs and Brahmins. A large number are former Bania (Hindu merchant caste) and are still today a successful trading community in both Pakistan and India.

Customs: Marriage proposals are initiated from the boy's family, and if

the match is agreed to, the father of the bride will distribute sweatmeat to the other side in a special ceremony called *sharfkhori*. Later the bride's father will also send a silk cloth with a certain number of knots to indicate the number of days before the wedding.

Religion: The Rajasthani Muslims are primarily Sunni, with the exception of the trading community, which is Shia. The Shia community is endogamous and somewhat isolated from the mainstream Muslim culture. Up until recently, the Rajasthani Muslims retained much of their Hindu culture, status, and relationships within Hindu society, probably due to their high caste origins. After the 1947 Partition, and the subsequent hostilities which ensued, a steady islamization began, along with a purging of Hindu elements and practice.

Christian Outreach: There is yet no known disciple-making team engag-

ing the Rajasthani Muslim peoples. The state of Rajasthan as a whole has the lowest percentage of Christians in India, with hundreds of unreached peoples where there are no known believers. Presently, the Rajasthani Muslims are the largest least-reached people group in the entire world.

How to Pray:

✞ Ask God to raise up a large prayer movement to see spiritual breakthrough among the Rajasthani Muslims, and that every subgroup among them might be adopted by local churches.

✞ Intercede for the immediate deployment of dozens of missionary teams in strategic locations, especially in the Jaipur (with 540,000 Muslims), Nagaur (with 370,000), and Jodhpur (with 320,000) districts where there are large concentrations of Rajasthani Muslims.

✞ There are around 500,000 Meos in Pakistan which fled after the 1947 partition. Pray for a team of Pakistani believers to be raised up to reach them.

✞ There is still no Bible in the major Rajasthani dialects (4 need them). Pray for a Muslim sensitive version to be completed and locally

Every year 45,000 Rajasthani Muslims die without Christ.