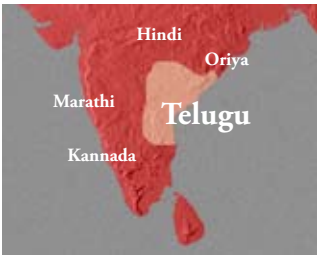


Telugu Muslims



Quick Facts

Population: 7,100,000

India: 7,000,000

Myanmar: 10,000

USA: 10,000

Malaysia: 5,000

Religion: Islam

Believers: 0.0007%

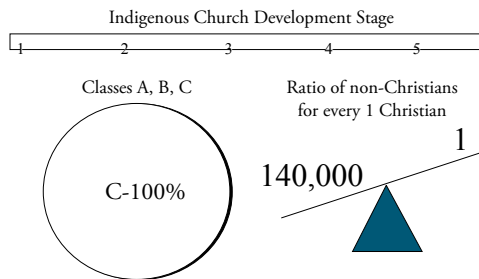
Scriptures: NT, OT

Ministry Tools: JRGT

C Status: 0

M Status: 1

MS Subgroups: 20+



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 Telugu Muslims are a cluster of peoples which speak Telugu as their mother tongue and who converted from Hinduism to Islam around 800 years ago. They live primarily in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, with concentrations on the coast and the city of Hyderabad.

Lifestyle: Generally speaking, Telugu speaking Muslims are from lower castes, and are thus economically disadvantaged (the higher castes in Andhra Pradesh generally speak Urdu as their mother-tongue). Each Telugu Muslim caste has its own traditional occupation. For example, the Attar-saibulu are perfume traders; the Chek-ketakare sell cars and motorcycles; the Borewale are palm-leaf weavers; the Garadi are jugglers (entertainers); and the Dudekula are cotton cleaners.

Customs: The Dudekula use parts of cattle intestines to clean cotton and as a result are considered “unclean” by

other Telugu castes, including those that are Muslim (a hold-over influence from Hinduism). As a result, the Dudekula are not allowed to inter-marry with any other Telugu Muslim caste group.

Religion: Most Telugu Muslim peoples were converted under the teaching of the Sufi saint Faqruddin in the 12th century. According to legend, Faqruddin cured a local king of a chronic disease, and in return this king turned an important Hindu temple into a mosque. However, even after all these centuries, syncretism with Hinduism is still common among many of the lower caste Telugu Muslim peoples. Only in recent years have some groups begun to shun Hindu customs in order to improve their status in the Muslim community, including giving their sons and daughters Muslim suffixes to their names (-saheb for boys and -bibi for girls).

Christian Outreach: There is little intentional effort to reach the Telugu

speaking Muslims, in spite of the fact that there are over 1 million Telugu speaking evangelicals in Andhra Pradesh! Only a handful of Telugu MBB’s are known, and these remain isolated and scattered, resulting in their inevitable absorption into the traditional Telugu Christian community.

How to Pray:

🙏 Pray for missionary teams to be raised up that will pioneer an indigenous church-planting movement among every Telugu-speaking Muslim people group.

🙏 Pray for the key city of Hyderabad, where over two million Telugu-speaking Muslims live. Ask God to move upon the hundreds of Christian agencies based in this city, which presently have little interest in reaching their Muslim neighbors.

🙏 Pray for the production of a Muslim-friendly version of the Telugu Bible, and for its wide distribution throughout every community.

🙏 Intercede for the few Telugu MBB’s that God would give them wisdom to know how to maintain an effective witness among their people. Pray that they might come together to form a strong indigenous church.

Every year 63,000 Telugu Muslims die without Christ.