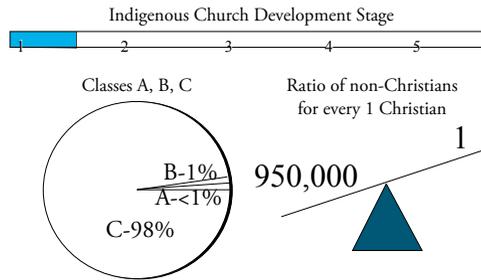


Deccani Muslims



Quick Facts

Pop. in India: 19,000,000
State Populations:
 Andhra Pradesh: 6,000,000
 Maharashtra: 6,000,000
 Karnataka: 5,700,000
 Madhya Pradesh: 300,000
Religion: Sunni Islam, Shia
Believers: 0.0001%
Scriptures: No
Ministry Tools: None
C Status: 1 **M Status:** 1
MS Subgroups: 50+



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 Deccani Muslims ruled the Deccan plateau of India from the fourteenth century until 1948. Their language Dakhani is a mixture of Hindi, Marathi, Persian, and Arabic. They are the descendants of intermarriages between Muslim converts from Deccan Hindu castes, and foreign Muslim immigrants from the Middle East, Central Asia and East Africa.

Lifestyle: For hundreds of years, the Deccan Muslims were the social, political and military elite in the kingdom of Hyderabad. In 1948, the newly constituted Indian government removed the Muslims from power and dismantled the state of Hyderabad, splitting it down the middle into three states. Many were plunged into destitution, and the community has been slow to recover. Most are engaged in small trade or as semi-skilled laborers.

Customs: Among the Konkani, a Deccani subgroup descending from Arab

settlers, strict pollution rules are followed after birth. When a child is born, the mother and child observe isolation for forty days. After this period, the baby is given its name, circumcized and tonsured (shaving of the head, leaving a tuft of hair at the crown).

Religion: Deccani Muslim culture is unique in its adaptation of many Hindu practices, including the caste system. Muslim communities derived from Backward Castes continue to not accept food from lower castes. Though the Deccani Muslims are predominantly Sunni (94%) there is a strong and generally well accepted Shia community (6%). The city of Hyderabad is the religious center for both communities. Virtually every street in the Muslim sections has its own Muslim saint whose grave is located there and carefully preserved, sometimes in the middle of the road.

Christian Outreach: The Deccani Mus-

lims are the least-reached mega-people in the world. A few mission agencies have begun missionary work among them in the last decade but progress has been slow. One fellowship has been established and interest in reaching them is growing among Indian believers in Hyderabad.

How to Pray:

☞ The Bible has yet to be completely translated in the Dakhani language. Pray that a strong team of Dakhani believers would soon be assembled to streamline this essential discipleship resource.

☞ Praise God for the emerging partnership of both indigeneous and expatriate organizations which are focused on the Deccani. Pray for strategic wisdom and Spirit-filled cooperative planning and joint efforts.

☞ Around 2.5 million Deccani Muslims live in Hyderabad. In this city are also the headquarters of over 150 Indian Christian organizations, 95% of which have no vision for reaching Muslims! Pray that the Holy Spirit would bring deep conviction about this neglect.

☞ Pray for specialized outreach and missionary teams for each of the Deccani

Every year 170,000 Deccani Muslims die without Christ.