

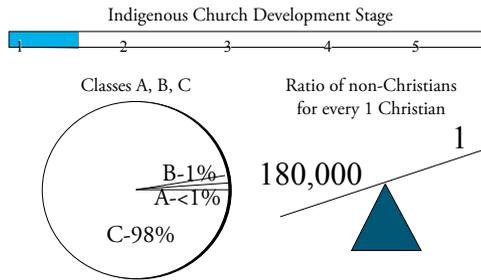
Gujarati Muslims



Quick Facts

Population: 4,500,000
 India: 3,500,000
 Pakistan: 800,000
 United Kingdom: 80,000
 Tanzania: 30,000

Religion: Islam
Believers: 0.0005%
Scriptures: NT, OT
Ministry Tools: JRGT
Church Status: 1
Mission Status: 1
MS Subgroups: 120+



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 Gujarati Muslims are a cluster of over 120 Gujarati peoples and castes which converted to Islam beginning in the 8th century through the influence of Arab and Persian traders. Larger communities are the Shaikhs, Vohras, Pathans and Bohras.

Lifestyle: Following the 13th century Turkish invasion of Gujarat, Muslims ruled this region for five hundred years. The community prospered from trade with the Muslim world, and today commerce remains the chief occupation of many of the larger castes. Other smaller castes which traditionally depended on their artisan crafts for livelihood have been forced to shift over to labor and service occupations due to the changing economy. For the most part, these smaller communities remain poor and uneducated.

Customs: The Gujarati Muslims have a strong communal system which they call Jamatbandi. Central to this

system is the ability of the community to impose sanctions on members which violate the communal code, especially in the areas of marriage and inheritance. Contrary to Muslim tradition, females are not allowed to inherit property, which ensures families the rights to their ancestral lands.

Religion: The late 11th century is regarded as the height of Muslim success in Gujarat due to the favor granted by a Hindu king, possibly to encourage trade between his kingdom and the West. Many converts were made, especially by the Shias which syncretized Hinduism with Islam. They taught that their leader Ali was the tenth avatar of the Hindu god Vishnu. They also adapted Hindu sacred songs (bajans) to reach the masses, resulting in conversions from almost every Hindu community.

Christian Outreach: Historically there has been very little outreach to the Gujarati Muslims. Following the 2002

massacre of many thousands of Gujarati Muslims by Hindu radicals, concern on the part of Christians (who were also being persecuted at this time) resulted in a large measure of heart-felt compassion and outreach to their Muslim neighbors.

How to Pray:

☞ Gujarati Muslim society is highly stratified along caste lines. Pray for specialized outreach to each one, especially the influential business castes. Intercede for those seeking to establish “business as mission” efforts to engage this level of society.

☞ Though the Gujarati Bible is available, it was translated with a Hindu audience in mind. Pray for an adaptation of this translation that would be more seeker friendly to those from a Muslim background.

☞ Tens of thousand of Gujarati Muslims have immigrated to the United Kingdom. Pray that believers there would catch a vision for reaching out to them in practical ways that demonstrate the love of Christ.

☞ Pray that each Gujarati church might adopt an unreached Gujarati Muslim people group for ongoing prayer and outreach.

Every year 40,000 Gujarati Muslims die without Christ.