



Quick Facts

Pop in India: 5,200,000

State Populations:

Maharashtra: 1,300,000

Rajasthan: 650,000

Madhya Pradesh: 545,000

Gujarat: 525,000

Religion: Jainism

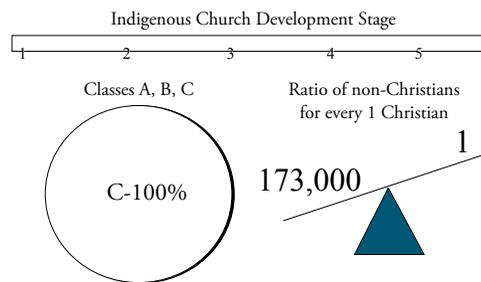
Believers: 0.0005%

Scriptures: NT, OT

Ministry Tools: JT

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

MS Subgroups: 150+



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 Jain are an ethno-religious group, which originated in North West India. They are primarily from the Bania caste (90%), with a small minority from the Lingayat (7%), and Brahman (2%). Ironically, the name Jain means conqueror, though as a community they profess non-violence.

Lifestyle: The Jains are prosperous and well-educated, and have the distinction of maintaining the highest literacy rate in India (94%). The majority of Jain are engaged in trade and business, including professions such as bankers, moneylenders, jewelers, goldmerchants and industrialists. They have migrated all throughout India, and can be found in every major city. A new generation of young urban professionals is emerging, specializing in law, medicine and engineering.

Customs: Jains strive to live up to the high standard of causing no injury

to any living creature. They are strictly vegeterians, and some are vegans. Many avoid eating roots, such as potatoes, onions and garlcs for fear of harming an insect, and some wear a covering over their mouth to avoid accidentally swallowing a fly.

Religion: Jainism can be historically verified to around the 6th century B.C., when the Indian sage Mahavira laid down the tenets of the faith. Mahavira taught that the way to acheive enlightenment and release from reincarnation (*moksha*), was through the ascetic life. An enlightened person (could be male or female) is called a Jina, and is characterized as having conquered such human problems as anger, pride, deceit, violence, and even desire itself. Every morning Jains bow to pray the *Navakar Mantra*, which invokes allegiance to past enlightened teachers of Jainism, and reminds followers of their way of life.

Christian Outreach: There has been

little effort to reach the Jains and there are no known discipleship groups among them. This is due to the fact that Jains are a tightly-knit, wealthy, high caste community, and have little association with Indian Christians, who are generally from poor and depressed, non-vegeteri-an castes.

How to Pray:

☞ One of the most important Jain centers is in the coastal city of Ahmadabad (Gujarat) with over 100 temples. Pray for spiritual breakthrough among this community, and for the rapid deployment of several missionary teams to disciple new believers.

☞ Pray for open doors to reach out to the influential ascetic community of monks and nuns. Ask God for a witness in every center, and for wisdom in making the gospel relevant to the Jain worldview.

☞ The few believers among the Jain are isolated and ostracized from their families. Pray for creative ways to evangelize and disciple within the community.

☞ Business has brought Jains into contact with Christians all over the world. Pray for a burden to reach them, especially among Western-

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 without Christ.**