

CHHIMBA OF INDIA

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QUICK FACTS

People Name: Chhimba

People Cluster: Urdu Muslim

Language: Urdu

Primary Religion: Islam

Population: 1,032,000

PRAYER POINTS

Pray that God will reveal Himself to the Chhimba Muslims through dreams and visions.

Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will intercede for the Chhimba through worship and intercession.

Ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth willing laborers into India.

Ask the Lord to bring forth a triumphant Chhimba church for the glory of His name!

CONTACT

FRONTIERS

(800) 462-8436
www.frontiers.org

HISTORY

The term Urdu does not adequately describe the Urdu people as such, but is merely a language distinction. Urdu-speaking Muslims are not an ethnic group in the strictest sense, but are rather a collection of ethnic groups who have been widely dispersed geographically. They possess a sense of "group identity" based on cultural and historical factors: the Islamic religion, a Persian cultural tradition, the Urdu language, and the tradition of Muslim supremacy in northern India.

Urdu, now the official language of Pakistan, is an Indo-Iranian language that developed from the Hindi language. It is heavily laden with Persian and Arabic words and is written in the Persian script.

LIFE

Urdu-speaking Muslims can be found in every level of society. They are the illiterate and the educated, the poor and the money lenders, the landlords and the religious leaders.

Presently, there is such diversity among the Urdu speakers that it is difficult to generalize their lifestyles. Within any given region, their differences are related to class distinctions.

Before the partition of Pakistan and India in 1947, the Urdu consisted of a wide range of economic and social classes. When Pakistan became independent in 1947, many Urdu-speaking Muslims stayed in India. While the petty merchants and laborers only noticed minor economic changes, the landholders experienced drastic changes. Middle class immigrants to the Persian Gulf and other nearby regions felt discriminated against in jobs and educational opportunities. Such immigrants tend to retain their original citizenship. The bulk of their earnings is sent back to their families in Pakistan and India. On the other hand, those who immigrate to westernized countries usually take on the citizenship of their new country. However, unless they live in neighborhoods containing numbers of other Urdu speakers, the second generation often loses contact with their native language and culture.

Very little is known about the Chhimba of India. Please pray for workers to bring the good news of Jesus to these people.

