

QUICK FACTS

People Name: Kho

People Cluster: Kashmiri

Language: Khowar

Trade Language: Urdu

Primary Religion: Islam 100%

Population: 308,000

PRAYER POINTS

Pray that the Lord will raise up laborers who are willing to invest long term service to the tribes of northern Pakistan.

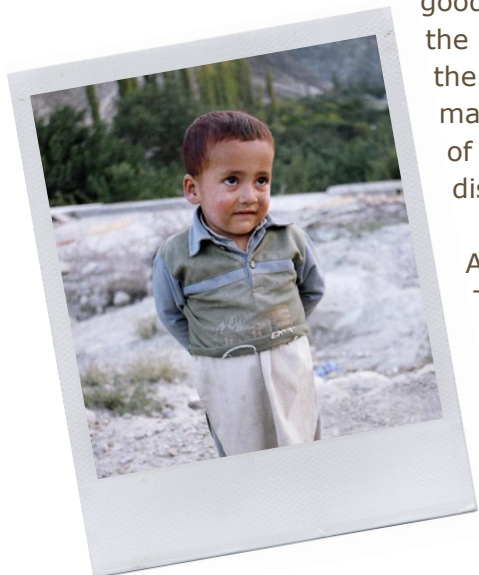
Pray that the Pakistani believers will gain a vision to see the Kho reached with the Gospel.

Pray that the Kho people will receive dreams and visions of Jesus.

Ask God to raise up workers for His harvest among the Kho.

Ask the Lord to soften the hearts of the people who are very resistant to the Gospel.

Pray for open doors among the Kho for the Gospel to be preached.



ABOUT THE PEOPLE

The Kho people of Northern Pakistan live in the high, mountainous region among four other main people groups. These five groups make up the original inhabitants of this area. The northern tribes are known as quiet, peace-loving, and brave people. Most of them live in the upper valleys, where farming is very difficult due to the dry, rugged mountain terrain. The Kho are the original speakers of the Khowar language, and their life is well-characterized by the following excerpt from studies on the people:

Khowar is the language of hearth and home. It is the language which children learn from their parents and grandparents within the extended family and through which they receive their informal education in the customs, traditions, values and beliefs of Kho society.

As the language of the hearth, Khowar is also the language of the heart. It is the medium through which sentiments of various kinds can be most appropriately expressed, a fact to which the long oral tradition of romantic poetry bears eloquent witness.

Khowar is also the language of the village. It is the means by which good-neighborly relations are maintained and by which the leading men of the village make decisions which effect the life of the community, from the construction and maintenance of the irrigation channels, to the establishing of water-sharing timetables, to the settling of local disputes.

Arabic, of course, is the language of religion in Islam. The Qur'an is written in Arabic, it is only authoritative in Arabic, and it should be read in Arabic if one wishes to derive the greatest benefit from it. In Khowar-speaking communities, however, the local *imam*, or spiritual leader, will preach the Friday sermon in Khowar, interpreting and applying quotations from the Qur'an.





The object of instruction in the schools is Urdu, English and Arabic. The medium of instruction, however, is Khowar—at least in the primary grades—because the children, through lack of opportunity, do not know Urdu. Most of the teachers in Chitral District are Khowar speakers and are, therefore, able to assist their students with explanations of their subjects in Khowar. At some point, however, perhaps at the high school level (years 9 and 10) or at the intermediate college level (years 11 and 12), lecturing in Urdu begins. At

the B.A. (13 and 14) and M.A. (15 and 16) levels, English assumes an ever more important role.

Most villages have one or two small shops dealing in a variety of essential commodities. The owners of these shops are almost invariably Khowar speaking and so business at a local level can be carried on in the Khowar language.

Khowar is used in sporting events such as polo matches, *buDi dik* (Chitrali cricket) games and soccer. Khowar is also used in social gatherings for interactive and entertainment purposes. Traditionally, women have gathered on long, dark winter nights to card and spin wool and to re-tell the old *shilogh* (folk tales), and poets hold *mushairas* to recite their latest work.

Khowar's oral tradition is full of well-loved poems and songs, passed down from generation to generation and sung to the accompaniment of a variety of instruments, especially the sitar. And with the advent of tape recorders, a small business has sprung up in the sale of Khowar audio cassettes featuring certain well-known vocalists and instrumentalists.

For centuries, Khowar has been the language of wider communication or 'lingua franca' in Chitral. Many of the speakers of the ten other languages in Chitral have learned Khowar as a second language.



WAYS TO HELP

Educational facilities are lacking in this area and the need for qualified teachers is great.

Anyone with business skills might be able to take some of the Kho's hand-crafted products and market them to a wider audience. This could provide extensive economic opportunities for the Kho people.

Would you be willing to be among the FIRST to engage these people with the hope of the Gospel? Would you be willing to lead a team? Contact us today to find out more - we need people to visit the Kho of Pakistan and find other great ways to bring new teams to live among them for the sake of the Kingdom.

CONTACT

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