



"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" **Matthew 28:19**

Unreached People Prayer Profile
January & February 2005

The Deghwari People of Pakistan

Pakistan is a land characterized by great geographic, climatic, linguistic, religious, and ethnic diversity. With a population of nearly 140.5 million, it is home to more than 90 distinct ethnic groups, with the major ones being the Punjabi, Sindhi, Pathan, and Urdu. This rich, varied ethnological background is largely a result of repeated invasions during Pakistan's long history. The people come from such ethnic backgrounds as the Dravidian, Indo-Aryan, Greek, Scythian, Hun, Arab, Mongol, Persian, and Afghan.

Scattered throughout Pakistan and often intermingled with the larger ethnic groups are many smaller groups, one of which is the Deghwari. They are located in central Baluchistan and are close neighbors of the Wanetsi and the Brahui. Their language, which they call Dehwari, is part of the Indo-Iranian language family. Very little specific detail is known concerning the lifestyle or culture of the Deghwari.



Copyright 1997: Condit

What Are Their Lives Like

About 26% of Pakistan's land is suitable for farming, with most of that land being irrigated. Agriculture and related activities engage about half of the work force, and more than 65% of the people live in rural areas. Agricultural yield has been low because of the large number of sharecroppers who have little incentive to increase production. In an attempt to deal with the problem, governmental reforms and progressive taxes have been introduced. In the 1960's and 1970's, wheat production dramatically increased, due to the use of improved irrigation techniques and fertilizers. This enabled Pakistan to become agriculturally self-sufficient, but there are still occasional shortages of staple items.

Wheat is the staple crop, and sugarcane is widely grown. Cotton and rice are the major export crops. Though there is much livestock, the production of meat and milk remains low because of inadequate feed and poor management. Goats and sheep are the most common animals, followed by cattle, buffalo, and camels.

Family organization is patriarchal (dominated by the males), and most people live in large extended families. A woman's place in society is low, and she is restricted to domestic chores and to fulfilling the role of a dutiful wife and mother. In wealthy peasant and land owner households and in urban middle class families, women are kept in seclusion, or *purdah*. If they do leave the house, they must be veiled. Houses of those who practice *purdah* typically have a men's section (*mardanah*) at the front of the house, so that visitors do not disturb the women, who are secluded in the women's section (*zananah*). Poorer families do not generally practice *purdah*, since the women have duties on the farm.

Social structure revolves around kinship rather than caste. *Beradari* (tracing ancestry through the males) is the most important social institution. Men prefer to marry the daughters of their fathers' brothers; thus, among many groups, marriages are invariably within the *beradari*. The elders of a lineage constitute a council that settles disputes and represents the lineage to the outside world.

What Are Their Beliefs?

The dominant religion of Pakistan is Islam, which is followed by about 97% of the population. Hinduism and Christianity form the leading minority religions. The Deghwari are included in the majority, being 100% Muslim. The Pakistani constitution defines the country as an Islamic nation but guarantees freedom of religion. In reality, however, there is much persecution of Christians.

What Are Their Needs?

Only about 35% of adult Pakistanis are literate. The constitution provides for five years of free primary education, but less than half of all children actually receive it. In addition, birth and death rates are high. The government has unsuccessfully attempted to lower fertility levels by encouraging female employment and family planning.

The Deghwari do not have any Christian resources in their own language, and no missions agencies are currently targeting them. Sustained intercession and pioneer missions efforts will be required to see the Deghwari penetrated with the Light of the Gospel.

Prayer Points

- Ask the Lord to soften the hearts of Pakistan's leaders towards the preaching of the Gospel.
- Pray that Christian teachers will respond to the challenge of sharing their skills and their faith with the Deghwari.
- Ask the Lord to raise up qualified linguists to translate the Bible into the Dehwari language.
- Pray that the Jesus film and Christian radio broadcasts will be made available to the Deghwari.
- Ask God to call faithful intercessors who will daily stand in the gap for the Deghwari.
- Pray that strong local churches will be planted among the Deghwari by the year 2000.

Statistics (Latest estimates from the World Evangelization Research Center.)

THE PEOPLE

- **People name:** Deghwari
- **Country:** Pakistan
- **Their language:** Dehwari
- **Population:**
 (1990) 11,400
 (1995) 13,100
 (2000) 15,100
- **Largest religion:**
 Muslim (Sunni) 100%
- **Christian:** 0%
- **Church members:** 0
- **Scriptures in their own language:** None
- **Jesus Film in their own language:** None
- **Christian broadcasts in their own language:** None
- **Mission agencies working among this people:** 0
- **Persons who have heard the Gospel:** 0 (0%)
 Those evangelized by local Christians: 0 (0%)
 Those evangelized from the outside: 0 (0%)
- **Persons who have never heard the Gospel:** 12,100 (100%)

THE COUNTRY

- **Country:** Pakistan
- **Population:**
 (1990) 121,933,300
 (1995) 140,496,700
 (2000) 161,827,400
- **Major peoples in size order:**
 Western Punjabi 42.5%
 Sindhi 11.6%
 Southern Punjabi 9.8%
 Eastern Pathan 7.9%
 Urdu 7.4%
- **Major religions:**
 Muslim 96.7%
 Christian 1.8%
 Hindu 1.5%
- **Number of denominations:** 37

Complete Bible:	No
New Testament:	No
Bible Portions:	None
Jesus Film:	None
Christian Radio Broadcast:	No
Audio Recording of Gospel:	No