

Bharadi in India



Photo: Arian Zwegers - Representative photo



"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

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| People Name | Bharadi |
| Country | India |
| Status | Unengaged Unreached |
| Population | 344,000 |
| Language | Marathi |
| Religion | Hinduism |
| Written Scripture | Yes |
| Oral Scripture | Yes |
| Jesus Film | Yes |
| Gospel Recordings | Yes |
| Christ Followers | No |
| Churches | No |
| Workers Needed | 6 |
| Workers Reported | 0 |

INTRODUCTION / HISTORY

The Bharadi derive their name from a word meaning "recitation." The community recites epic tales about Lord Shiva and receive alms for the services. In addition to recitation, some work as wage laborers in agriculture or in industry and government work.

They live mainly in Nasik, Thane, Ahmadnagar, Jalgaon, Buldhana, Poona, Ratnagiri, Raigarh, Kolhapur, Aurangabad, Amravati, Nagpur and Parbhani districts of Maharashtra.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

They have several sub-groups and prefer marriages to take place within each of those groups.

They speak Marathi and use the Devnagari script for the orthography. They also speak fluent Hindi with those groups who speak it. Whereas many castes avoid meat, the Bharadi eat fish, chicken and goat. They do avoid beef and pork, however. Alcohol is used occasionally which is a recognizable difference between this group and others.

They are not a lower caste but consider themselves just below the high Brahman caste. They have several clans and always marry someone from outside their own clan. Women usually marry between 16 and

18 years. Men marry between 20 and 25 as a rule. Marriage is negotiated between the families of bride and groom. Occasionally a man will marry more than one wife and sometimes he marries a sister of his first wife.

You will know a Bharadi woman is married if she has a nose ring and a toe ring on her left foot. Divorce and remarriage for men and women is allowed, but must be approved by the caste council.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

They are Hindus. They revere a number of family deities and have a family altar where they worship several gods and goddesses.

PRAYER POINTS

* Pray urgently (deomai) for the Lord to thrust out (ekballo) workers to this people group. (Mt 9:37-38, Lk 10:2 and Jn 4:35)

* Pray for the Holy Spirit to equip, empower, and guide these laborers to bear fruit through disciple-making and church-planting movements within this people group. (Mt 18:8, Mk 4:8, Jn 15:8)

* Ask the Holy Spirit to multiply these movements until there is no place left in this people group where Christ is not preached or known. (Mt 24:14, Mt 28:18-20, Acts 19:10, Rom 15:23)

* Ask that these movements transform this people group's culture to fully glorify God and represent His Kingdom on earth. (Mt 6:9-10, Rom 12:2, 2 Cor 3:18)

* Pray for every opposing spirit to give way to the liberating, life-giving gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the coming King. (James 4:7, 2 Cor 10:4-5, 1 Cor 15:58, Mt 18:18)

SOURCES

People of India: Maharashtra, Part 1 - K.S. Singh