

The Kol of Bangladesh



The Kol are a small group in Bangladesh. Racially they are proto-Australoid, and they share linguistic, racial, and geographical origins with the larger Santali and Mundari groups. Unlike many Santals and Mundas, however, the Kol are not Christian, and they have much lower literacy and education levels. They are therefore on the periphery of Santali/Mundari society. Also, as followers of a religion which is a mix of animism and Hinduism, they find themselves on the fringes of Bangladeshi society.

Within Bangladesh the Kol live in villages which are separate from and sometimes relatively isolated from Bengali villages in southwestern Rajshahi division. They work primarily as farmers, some working their own land and some working other people's land as laborers for a daily wage. As a whole they are quite uneducated, and they see opportunities for education for Kol children as one of their most pressing needs. They could also benefit from job skills training, an emphasis on education, and evangelism.

Primary Religion:
Animism and Hinduism

Disciples (Matt 28:19):
Very few (updated 2011)

Churches:
0%

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):
None

Population (date):
1000-1500 (2005)



KOL HOMELAND



Kol of Bangladesh

Have They Heard the Gospel?

Ratio of pastors/evangelists to population	0
Ratio of missionaries to population	0
Who is Jesus Christ to them?	Few would call themselves Christian. Few have Jesus as their God and only savior. Fewer than 25% believe Jesus is a prophet, a good man, but not the only savior. Most believe in their local, traditional religion. 80% have not heard who Jesus is.
Do They Have A Church?	None
Do They Have the Word Translated	No
Any Hindrances to Scripture Distribution?	They are not adequately bilingual in Bangla, Santali, or Mundari to use any of those Bibles well.
Are Cross-Cultural Missionaries Needed?	Missionaries who do medical missions and/or literacy/ education along with evangelism would be better received than those who do evangelism alone. There is a great need among the Kol for medical care and education.