



The Gujarati Hindus of Kenya

Hindus trace their origin to the Sanskrit-speaking Aryans who came down from the steppes of Central Asia into the Punjab, bringing with them their nature gods. Collections of prayers and hymns known as vedas became their holiest books. The original Aryan social system later solidified into a structure of three main castes: Brahmins (priests), Kshatriya (warriors) and Vaishya (farmers, traders, artisans). Less skilled people and common laborers were not counted worthy of a caste, hence were outcasts. Thus a Hindu's work was determined by his birth and occupations were inherited.

Gods and goddesses abound including Luxmi, the goddess of wealth who is celebrated on the last day of the Hindu financial year. The goddess Ambaji, dominates Hindu worship in Kenya as in Gujerat. The annual festival continues for nine (9) days, during which time the women and girls dance the "ras garbas". During the finale of the festival, a coconut is offered in a sacrificial fire for the atonement of the sins of the community for that year.

The cow is a very important part of Hindu culture and religion. However, in Kenya, it is of lesser importance because Hindus who migrated here are not of agrarian roots. They are urban dwellers who are merchants, artisans and clerks.

Marriage is viewed as a practical union between two extended families, not a love relationship. Love is not the basis of marriage but the result of it. Typically, the bride goes to live at her husband's home. In Kenya where education is widespread, the bride is older and the couple usually establish their own home.

In 1957, International Missions Inc came to Kenya to begin ministry among the Asians. Since that time, a church has been started in Nairobi, and one in Kisumu. Bible clubs were carried on in these cities as well as in Mombasa and Nakuru. There have been a number of converts, but many have emigrated along with the general outflow of Asians from Kenya.

Primary Religion:

Hinduism

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

0.1%

Churches:

3

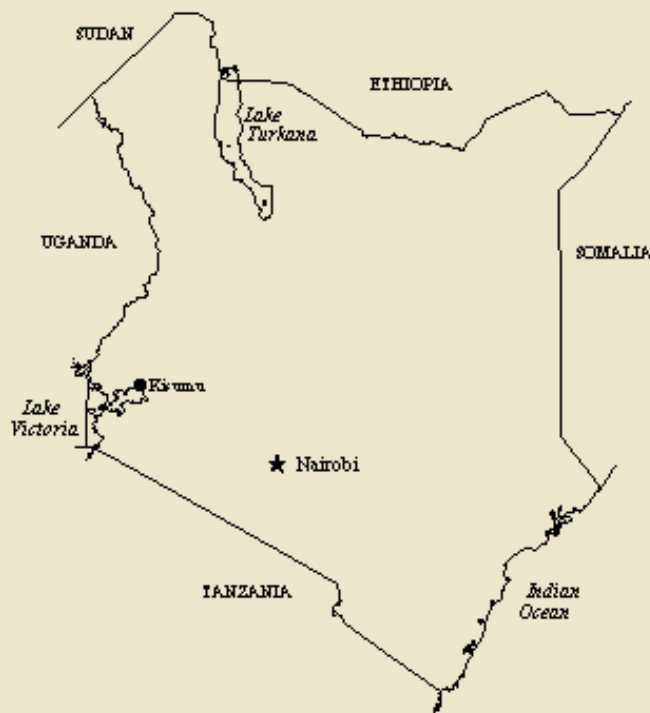
Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Bible

Population (date):



GUJARAT HOMELAND



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	0.1%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	99%	
Number Of Pastors	1	
Number Of Missionaries Working	6	
Number Of Churches	3	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Yes; Bible (old Gujarati); New Testament Living Bible	
Translation Medium	Bible - old Gujarati; NT- Living Bible.	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	No. They understand and can read English and Kiswahili as well as the Gujarati Bible.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Recordings, radio, literature, video	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Yes, cross-cultural missionaries are definitely needed.	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Kenya	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Cities	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Comment (Language)	Mother tongue is important for preserving their culture.	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Comment (Second Language)	They understand and can read English and Kiswahili as well as the Gujarati Bible.	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Industrial	
Occupation	Traders, professionals, industrialists	
Income Sources	Manufacturing, business	
Trade Partners	Kenyans	
Modernization / Utilities	Modern housing and lifestyles	
Community Development		Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Very good	
Comment (Diet)	Rice, curry, vegetables, fruit. Generally vegetarian.	
Water (Quality)	Very good	
Shelter Description	Modern housing	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Very good	
Clothing	Western dress	
Transportation	Private cars, public transport	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Family Structures	Marriage is viewed as a practical union between two extended families, and not as a love relationship (love might result from it). Typically the bride goes to live at her husband's home. In Kenya, where education is widespread, the bride is older and the couple usually establish their own home.	
Neighbor Relations	Good, but generally keep to themselves in social life.	
Authority / Rule	Community elected officials	
Social Habits/Groupings	The first Hindus came to Kenya as bachelors. Later, as they established themselves and saw the opportunities for business, they began to bring their families. There are various communities, each with their own leadership, some with social halls. Almost all of the communities here belong to the Vaishya caste. The Kshatriya are represented by the small rajput community. There are a few Brahmins also in Kenya.	

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Item Name	Item Note
Cultural Change Pace	Medium
Identification With National Culture	Similar
Self Image	Prestigious
Judicial / Punishment System	Family can trade caste tribunals traditionally.
Celebrations	Mostly centered around Hinduism
Media	No local language broadcasting

Education

Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	100
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	English
Language Of Instruction Later Years	English
Comment (Education)	Community schools

Church Growth

Reached Status	Engaged
Lay Leaders	4

Religion & Response

Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Fasting of various durations, Diwali, festivals of various gods and goddesses.
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History Of Christianity In Group

Year Began	1957
By Whom	International Missions
Comments (History of Christianity)	Parklands Christian Centre also work among these people

Scripture

Available Scripture	Bible
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	Yes

Missions and Churches

Organization Name	International Missions
Main Ministry	Evangelism
Year Started	1957
Number Of Expatriate Workers	6

Christian Literature And Media Status

Literature Available	Tracts
Audio Recordings Available	Yes
Films Available	"Jesus" film in Gujarati
Radio Programs Available	Yes

Group Description

Status of Christianity

Status of Christianity

Status of Christianity

Status of Christianity

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