

## The Gurung of Nepal and India



The Gurung people live in Nepal, primarily in the hills of the Annapurna mountain. Some also live in West Bengal state, India. Of an ethnic population of 544,000, 359,000 speak it as their primary language. There is variation in their language from one place to another, but they can still understand each other.

Due to the mountainous terrain of Nepal, farming takes place on steep terraces. While this makes for a beautiful landscape, Gurung farmers must be very strong and hardworking, carrying their handmade plows or harvested crops up the steep mountainsides. Many villages have installed a community water tap in recent years, but some villagers still have to hand carry all their water up steep mountain paths. Children as well often walk 1-2 hours on steep trails to get to school.

Despite the hard work it takes to live in this rough terrain, Gurungs also take time for community dances and parties. They dress in their traditional dress, sing and dance together to the beat of a drum, and eat festive food. To dancers who dance especially well, community members will stick a small piece of money in their braid or behind their ear. Most communities have a women's society that will plan events for the community and do small fundraisers for projects that will benefit everyone.

Gurungs have been employed in large numbers in the British and Indian armies, starting a growing trend of young men and women leaving their villages to move to cities or abroad for work or study.

Religion plays a large role in the community and those who are sick will often visit the local shaman. He may advise them to perform certain religious rites or even sacrifice a chicken or buffalo to appease the spirits. Every year during the country's largest festival, every family will sacrifice a goat at their community temple. Shrines to the family's gods of choice are present in nearly every home and amulets and incense to ward off evil spirits is common.

**Primary Religion:**

Ethnic Religion

**Disciples (Matt 28:19):**

1-2%

**Churches:**

very few

**Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):**

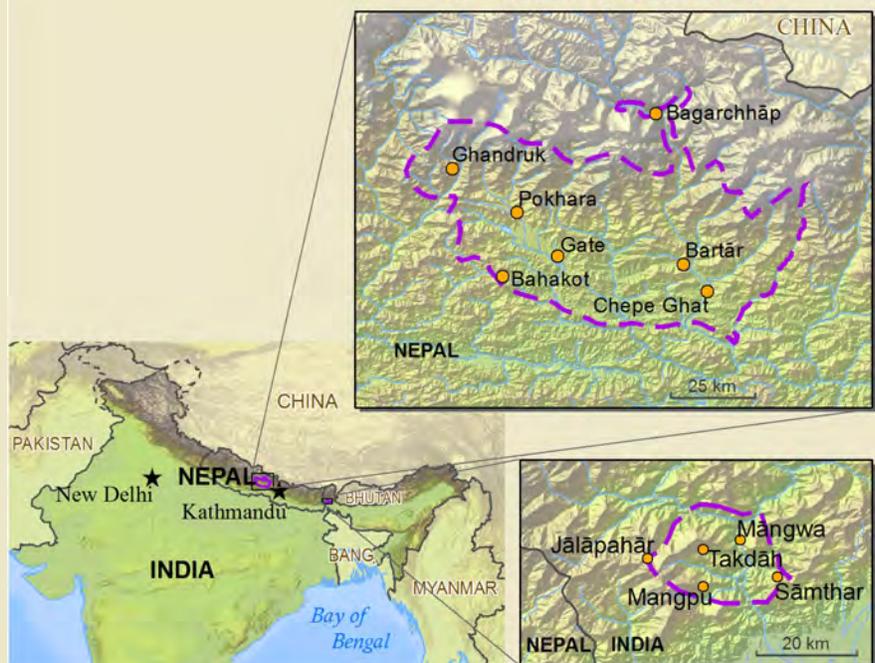
New Testament

**Population (date):**

359,000 (2011)



### GURUNG HOMELAND



## The Gurung of Nepal

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### Have They Heard The Gospel?

Religious Practices and Ceremonies	Gurungs practice their own ethnic religion, as well as Buddhism and Hinduism, sometimes mixed. The funeral is an important festival. Gurungs will return to their home villages to participate in this elaborate ceremony.
Attitude toward Christianity	There are very few believers and strong hostility exists toward Christians.
Is the Word of God Translated?	The New Testament was translated in 1982, but it is now out of print and a revision is underway.
Other Forms of Gospel Presentations	
Recordings:	Yes
Literature:	Yes
Films/videos:	Yes
Bible Stories:	Yes
Language of Wider Communication/ or Trade Language	Nepali [npi]
Bilingualism	35,000 Gurungs are estimated to not speak Nepali or other neighboring languages.

# The Gurung of Nepal

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## Group Description

### Population all countries

World Population	359,000 - 336,000 in Nepal and 33,000 in India
World Population (Date)	2011 census in Nepal, 2009 census in India
Ethnic Populatioin	544,000 in Nepal and 112,000 in India

### Geography & Environment

Location	<p>The Gurung people live in the Western Development Region of Nepal, primarily in the hills of the Annapurna mountain range in Kaski, Lamjung, Parbat, Syangja, Gorkha, Tanahun, and possibly Manang districts. They traditionally live at altitudes of 1500-2500 meters.</p> <p>In India they live in West Bengal, Darjeeling district; Sikkim, South district.</p> <p>It is possible that some also live in Myanmar.</p>
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Climate	Temperate
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### Alternate Language Names

Percent Monolingual	Gurung Kura, Tamu Kyi, Daduwa 10%
Other Mother Tongues	Nepali [nep]

### Linguistically Related Languages

Thakali [ths], Seke [skj], Nar Phu [npa], Manangba [nmm], Chantyal [chx]

### Economics

Subsistence Type	Farmers, growing rice, maize, millet and other grains and vegetables.
Income Sources	They have been employed in the British and Indian armies.

## **The Gurung of Nepal**

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### **Community Development**

#### Clothing

Men's clothing often includes a white or light colored woven cloth that forms a vest criss-crossing in the front, and a traditional belt. Women wear a shawl over one shoulder, the pattern of which indicates what village they are from. They also wear a darkly colored lungi or skirt, a cholo blouse, a long piece of fabric wrapped tightly around their waist and traditional jewelry.

### **Society & Culture**

#### Recreations

Dance. The community gathers together to sing and dance to the beat of a traditional drum called a "madal."

### **Education--Group Description**

#### Language Of Instruction

Early Years

Later years

Nepali

Nepali

Nepali