

The Kodagu of India

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The Kodagu (or Coorgi) people call themselves Kodava which means "the people blessed by godmother Kavery". They have a distinct ethnic identity which they have preserved over the centuries. The joint family system is important to the Kodagu as well as their clan structure. They are known as hospitable and god-fearing people. They follow a liberal form of Hinduism giving prominence to ancestor worship and to the goddess Kavery. The dowry system is unknown here and women have a fairly high status. They celebrate Puthari, a harvest festival known for varieties of folk dances. Village temples are the main centers of cultural activities. The Kodagu language is written in Kannada script, the official state language. Kodava/Coorgi is also the mother tongue of some other communities such as Airi, Male-Kudiya, Meda, Kembatti, Kapal, Maringi, Heggade, Kavadi, Kolla, Thatta, Koleya, Koyava, Banna, Golla, Kanya, Ganiga, and Malaya, living mainly in the Coorg region. The education level, and thus the literacy rate, is quite high and there is high status attached to learning English. There are a few believing Christians but most live outside of the home area due to fear of persecution. There is a need for Bible translation into the Kodagu language and for the entire community to be reached with the Gospel.

profile contributed by New Life Computer Institute, Bangalore, India

Primary Religion:

Hinduism

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

Churches:

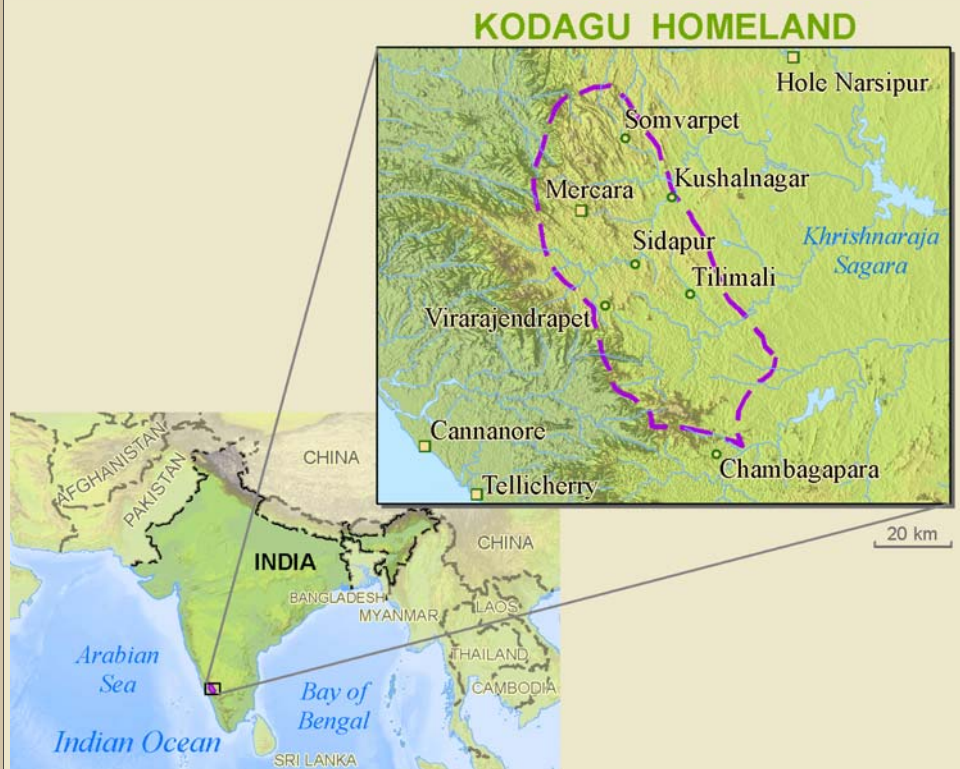
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Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

No

Population (date):

241,017 (2001)



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	<1%	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	99	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	90	
Number Of Pastors	0	
Number Of Missionaries Working	0	
Number Of Communities	17	
Comment (Number Communities)	Kodava/Coorgi is also the mother tongue of some other communities such as Airi, Male-Kudiya, Meda, Kembatti, Kapal, Maringi, Heggade, Kavadi, Kolla, Thatta, Koleya, Koyava, Banna, Golla, Kanya, Ganiga, and Malaya, living mainly in the Coorg region.	
Number Of Churches	0	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	None	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Yes	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	India	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Map Features	Yes	
Literacy		Group Description
Comment (Literacy)	Second language literacy rate: 85%	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Attitude To Christianity	Resistant	
Comment (Attitude To Christianity)	They think that their religion is far superior to Christianity, in god fearing, good work and moral life	
Attitude To Religious Change	Resistant	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	1800	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	Yes	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	No	