

Yerukula



Population: 437,000 (4.37 lakhs)

Literacy: 45.4%

Scripture Status: New Testament translation is in progress.

During ancient times, the Yerukula were nomads who also acted as spies for the rulers of the land. They were the chief collectors of secret information from enemy territories until the time of the British invasion. Then they lost their jobs as intelligence staff and moved into agriculture and petty trades such as rope making and mat and basket weaving. At a certain time there was a setback

The Yerukula are expert hunters who can even hit running animals and flying birds.

in their businesses, and unfortunately they turned to crime for survival. Subsequent harsh punishments and torture have driven the Yerukula to a sub-human standard of living.

Though the Yerukula are spread throughout the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, they are mainly concentrated in the hills and plains of Andhra Pradesh, a state in south central India. Recently, most of the Yerukula have been allotted agricultural lands by the government and they have put them to good use. They have also made use of government welfare schemes to regain the freedom they once enjoyed. Today, most of the Yerukula are settled in villages and small towns, trying to make their way out of poverty by getting

education so that they can obtain the financial freedom they have long been denied.

The Yerukula are largely Hindus with a small percentage of Christians. There are a few churches among this community. Christianity is on the rise among the Yerukula because of the economic inducements and the cooperation of missionaries. There is no Christian literature in the Yerukula people's language, Sankara-Yerukula, which is closely related to Tamil. However, a few Gospel recordings are available in Yerukula. A children's Bible was published first in the year 2007 and New Testament translation is in progress. Let us hope that Christianity will make a greater impact in the lives of the Yerukula at all levels.

Pray for:

1. God's wisdom and favour for the mission agency working among the Yerukula.
2. More long-term workers to join the few missionaries who have already responded to God's call.
3. Qualified people to be raised up by God to translate the Bible into Yerukula.

