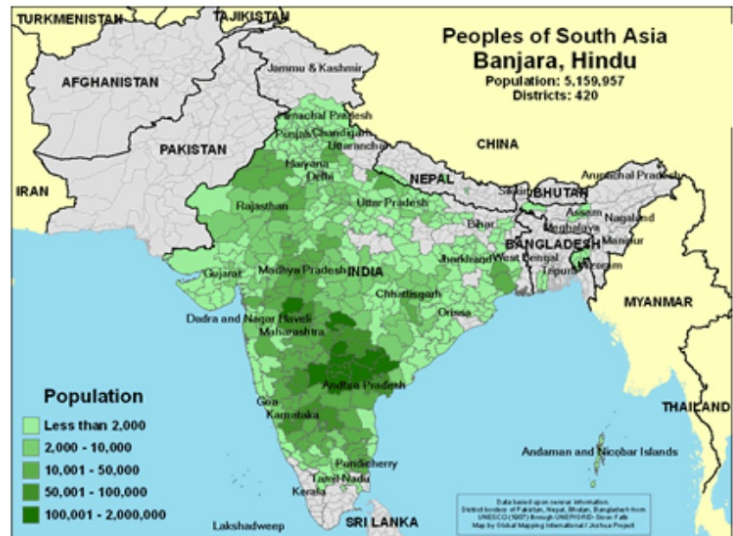


# BANJARA

of  
India



Population: 5,791,000

Religion: Hinduism

Christian: 0%

Language: Lambadi

They are the largest gypsy group in India and are known as the root gypsies of the earth.

Most of them have settled down to farming and raising cattle or grain. Others still trade in salt and other commodities. They also sew intricately embroidered colorful clothes with shining discs and beads. They make ornaments and ornate jewelry, which the women also wear.

The Banjara love music, playing folk instruments, and dancing. The Banjar are also acrobats, magicians, tricksters, story-tellers, and fortune-tellers.

Many Banjara live in poverty, which has led to unsanitary living conditions for many. Because they are poor, they eat what they have grown in their gardens along with dairy products.

Many live in grass huts, often with extended families. The Banjara families are closely knit, having minimal relationships with other castes.

Most children do not attend schools because their families are always on the move. Only 12% of men and 3.6% of women can read. The Banjara do not have a written language.