

KORAGA

of
India



Population: 21,500

Religion: Ethnic Religions

Christian: 0%

Language: Korra Koraga



The Koraga are classified by the Government of India as a Scheduled Tribe, or Dalits, the untouchable class of India.

Historically, the Koraga are known as being a lowly tribe of basket-makers and laborers, some of whom were employed as scavengers. They remain today among the untouchables, being considered as ritually polluted by Hindus. The area in which they live comprises mostly agricultural land and forest and the tribe continue to make use of the forest produce for the manufacture of baskets today.

They traditionally lived in structures made of leaves, called koppus and also dressed in leaves. Around at the beginning of 21st century, they started to live in simple free houses constructed and sanctioned by Government agencies, but some of them are still either homeless or live on government-owned lands.

The diet of the Koraga is generally of poor quality in part because they spend between 40% and 50% of their income on alcohol, which is consumed by all ages. They subsist mainly on rice and meats such as pork and beef. Malnutrition is common among Koraga children due to poor diet.

Koraga people are known for drum beating (dolu or dolu beating) and it is one of their important cultural contributions. They used to beat dolu during events such as Kambala, village fairs or just for fun in their living places. Traditional belief was that Koraga drum-beating had special powers and that the sound of drum-beating drives away evil spirits.