

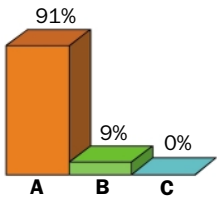


**Population in China:**  
 8,000 (1990)  
 10,320 (2000)  
 13,300 (2010)  
**Location:** Guangxi  
**Religion:** Daoism  
**Christians:** None Known

## Overview of the Shikou Biao Mien

- Countries:** China
- Pronunciation:** "Shee-ko-Beeaw-Jeeaw-Mee-en"
- Other Names:** Shikou Yao
- Population Source:** 8,000 (1995 Wang Fushi – 1990 figure); Out of a total Yao population of 2,134,013 (1990 census)
- Location:** NE Guangxi; Gongcheng County
- Status:** Officially included under Yao
- Language:** Hmong-Mien, Mienic, Biao-Jiao
- Dialects:** 0
- Religion:** Daoism, Animism, Polytheism
- Christians:** None known
- Scripture:** None
- Jesus film:** None
- Gospel Recordings:** None
- Christian Broadcasting:** None
- ROPAL code:** None

### Status of Evangelization



**A** = Have never heard the gospel  
**B** = Were evangelized but did not become Christians  
**C** = Are adherents to any form of Christianity

**Location:** More than 10,000 people speaking the Shikou Biao Mien language live in Gongcheng County of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The area is southeast of the large city of Guilin, famous for centuries for its tourist attractions.

**Identity:** The Shikou Biao Mien are one of 29 groups profiled in this book who comprise the officially constructed Yao nationality in China.

**Language:** The Shikou language of Biao Mien was recently declared to be a separate language by Chinese scholars. Previously it was classified as a dialect of Biao Mien. The Biao-Jiao Mien language (spoken farther north) is closely related. Most Shikou Biao Mien are bilingual in Chinese, though few apart from the most educated are able to read. Very few minority people in this part of the country have ever attended high school.

**History:** The various branches of the Yao in China have long been viewed as stubborn and rebellious by the Chinese. The Han viewed tribal groups in two categories: "raw" and "cooked," according to their level of assimilation. The Yao invariably qualified as "raw" people who refused to conform to Chinese culture or rule. Rebellions by the Yao were first mentioned during the reign of the Song Emperor Renzong (1023–1064). "One occurred in Guangdong in 1035, another in Hunan in 1043. There is mention of a rebellion in the Guangzhou region in 1281.... Then

there was the famous 1832 Yao rebellion in Hunan, in which the Yao, reacting to theft of cattle and grain by members of the Triad Society, organized an uprising that took several months and armies from three provinces to squelch."<sup>1</sup> Many Yao uprisings occurred because of the Yao's refusal to pay taxes. In many ways the Chinese authorities gave up trying to "civilize" the Yao. Even today many communities, including the Shikou Biao Mien speakers, view outsiders with great suspicion and mistrust.

**Customs:** The Biao Mien in Shikou share many common cultural traits with other Yao groups in southern China, including the Lu Mien. They are hardworking agriculturists, who live in two-story wooden houses located near the summits of high mountains in extremely

remote areas. Few Shikou Biao Mien are seen in the townships except on market days when they come down to buy and sell.

**Religion:** Daoism (formerly spelled Taoism) is the major religious adherence among the Shikou Biao Mien. They have village priests who officiate at organized festivals. The priests chant from sacred Daoist manuals written in Chinese. These priests also act as intermediaries between the people and the spirit world.

**Christianity:** There is no known Christian presence among the Shikou Biao Mien. Their remote location and isolated mind-set have prevented them from being exposed to the gospel of Jesus Christ. They remain an unreached people group without hope, in this life or eternity to come.



Paul Hattaway