

Yadu Qiang is spoken by more people than any other Qiang language in China. The majority of the approximately 30,000 Yadu Qiang live in the Chibusu, Yadu, Qugu and Weicheng districts of Maoxian County in Sichuan Province and in the Waboliangzi and Se'ergu districts of Heishui County farther to the north.¹

Yadu Qiang is one of 11 groups that make up the official Qiang nationality in China. The Yadu Qiang language is part of the Northern Qiang group. Although languages of the Northern Qiang appear to be more homogeneous than the Southern Qiang languages, which are clearly distinct from one another, Yadu Qiang speakers must still use Chinese or Tibetan to communicate with other Northern Qiang speakers.

Although the Qiang are no longer considered a matriarchal society, women still play a leading role in agriculture and usually have the final say in the family. Young couples often live with the wife's family after the wedding. Until recently, early marriages were common among the Qiang. It was not unusual for a boy to marry between the ages of seven and ten, and women between 12 and 18. Qiang women sing a sarcastic song to their guests. 'It is the sixth moon, and the wheat flowers are blooming in the field. My husband is still an infant drinking milk. How long will it be before he grows up?' One of the games the Qiang play at festivals is called egg snatching. They place a number of rocks on the ground

and, while one person guards them, others try to snatch them. Whoever gets the most wins the contest. Another Qiang favourite is the log-pushing contest. Two people grab the log and try to push each other out of a circle. Whoever succeeds wins.

The Qiang have their own unique cultural

arts and crafts. Embroidery is a favourite pastime of the women. The Qiang enjoy singing and dancing as well. 'Wine Song', 'Plate Song', 'Mountain Song', 'Guozhuang' and the 'Leather Drum' dances are very popular. These are accompanied by gongs, tambourines, *sonas* and bamboo flutes.

Most of the

Yadu Qiang living in Heishui County have been thoroughly assimilated to Tibetan culture and religion. They follow Tibetan Buddhism, mixed with polytheism and animism. Prayer flags and prayer beads are two of the common Buddhist symbols they have borrowed from the Tibetans.

Despite the fact that the Yadu Qiang have the largest population of the Qiang groups in Sichuan, there are no known Christians among them. Those in Maoxian County live nearer the Qiang believers, but there are major linguistic differences that make it difficult for the Yadu Qiang to understand the gospel from Southern Qiang speakers. The Yadu Qiang living in Heishui County have even less chance of hearing the gospel. They live alongside Tibetan nomads who are also completely untouched by Christianity.



Population:
29,650 (2000)
38,200 (2010)
47,000 (2020)
Countries: China
Buddhism: Tibetan
Christians: none known

Overview of the Yadu Qiang

Other Names: Chiang; Yadu, Yadu, Ya-tu Ch'iang

Population Sources:

23,000 in China (1998, Liu Guangkun [1990 figure])

Language: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Tangut-Qiang, Qiangic, Northern Qiang

Dialects: 0

Professing Buddhists: 70%

Practising Buddhists: 25%

Christians: 0%

Scripture: none

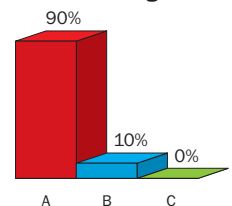
Jesus film: none

Gospel Recordings: none

Christian Broadcasting: none

ROPAL code: CNG01

Status of Evangelization



A = Have never heard the gospel
B = Have heard the gospel but have not become Christians
C = Are adherents to some form of Christianity