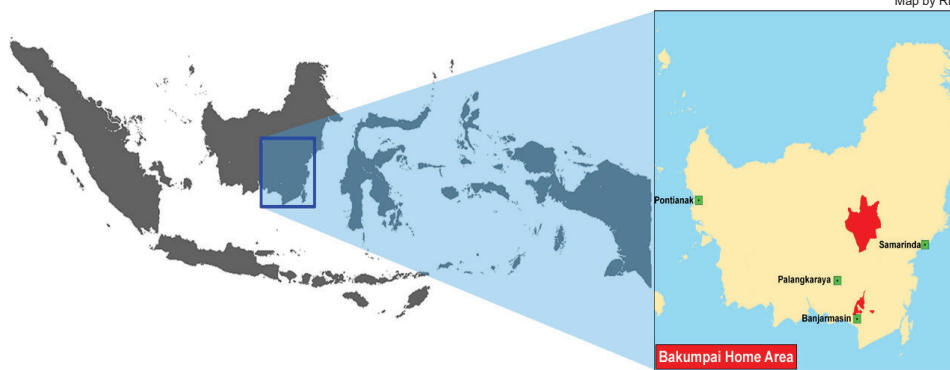


BAKUMPAI



Demography	Bakumpai Language	Status
Location: Kalteng, Kalsel	Bible: No	Believers: <50
Population: 160.000	Jesus Film: No	Engaged: Yes
Major Religion: Islam	Online Media: No	Indigenous Church: 0

Identity and Location

The Bakumpai people are a group of Dayak people who speak the Bakumpai language and identify themselves as Bakumpai people. The majority of Bakumpai are Muslims. They have differing customs and languages from the Banjar (the majority Muslim group) but have many similarities with the surrounding Dayak tribes though they identify themselves differently from most Dayaks (since they are Muslim, not Christian).

The majority of Bakumpai people live near the Barito River, which flows through the province of Central Kalimantan. In South Kalimantan Bakumpai people live in Barito Kuala Regency, while those in Central Kalimantan live in South Barito Regency.

Their southern neighbors are Banjars and in the north are the Ngaju and Maanyan people. Some scholars believe that Bakumpai people are one of the Ngaju people, although Bakumpai people themselves regard themselves as a separate group.

The Bakumpai belong to the Dayak ethno-linguistic family.

Society and Culture

The Bakumpai are settled in an area that is crossed by many rivers. Therefore Bakumpai people have developed many water transportation technologies. They farm in paddy fields that depend on the up and down flow of river water or in irrigated fields. They fish in the rivers, trade, and make household appliances.

Their social and cultural life is highly influenced by Banjar culture. In the past, when Banjarmasin was still a Hindu kingdom, their social system was that of a Hindu caste system.

The Bakumpai system of kinship is reciprocal like in Banjar culture. Thus, the husband and wife together play

an important role in the family. Traditionally, Bakumpai people are free to choose their place of residence after marriage. They may live with their husband's family or their wife's family or separate from their families in their own home. Their inheritance system follows Islamic law.

Beliefs

In general Bakumpai people are adherents of Islam. The influence of Islam is seen in almost every aspect of their lives, as well as in their social systems, their greater family relationships, even in their artistic activities.

Marabahan, the center of the Bakumpai settlement, has produced many famous Islamic teachers who have spread the teachings of Islam far upstream the Barito River.

The majority religion of the Dayak Bakumpai people is Islam which has been ingrained into the life of Dayak Bakumpai people. The number of Bakumpai people not only have increased biologically through their descendants but also because of Christian Dayak people becoming Bakumpai when they convert to Islam. When a Dayak converts from Christianity or Kaharingan to Islam his identity becomes Bakumpai and he uses the Bakumpai language even when he speaks with his fellow tribesmen or even with his own family.

Needs

The Bakumpai people need to improve their farming technology for the marshy soil. Their irrigation system depends entirely on the ebb and flow of the sea or the tributaries of the Barito River. There is no reliable irrigation system to meet all their needs. Additionally, the development of river transportation would be very helpful.