

Muslim Tamboli



Introduction / History:

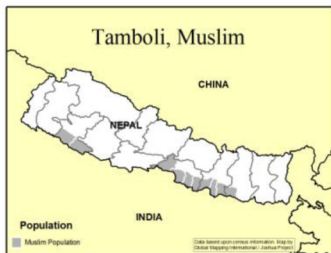
The Tamboli or Tambuli (also Barai) derive their name from the Sanskrit term for “betel leaves” (*tambula*). Tambul or betel leaf packing has commonly been the primary source of income for thousands of Tamboli as they bundle and sell the betelnut and betel leaf product. Nearly 2 million Tamboli live in India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh.

What are their lives like?

Today the Tamboli can still be found in India in the tradition business of cultivating the piper betel plant or the areca nut or packaging the leaves in 200 leaf packs for sale and distribution, though not all remain in this profession. Scores of Tamboli, because of a higher or “clean” caste status, can be found in small business trading and as hardware shop owners. About 90% of Tamboli are Hindus but the other 10% are Muslims and trace this heritage back to conversion from Hinduism. It is believed that about a quarter of the Tamboli in Nepal are Muslims and they primarily speak the Maithili language.

Ministry needs:

Little to no ministry work has ever been done among the Tamboli and despite this large population there are no known Christians among them. Pray that the betel leaf and areca nut industry could be penetrated with the Gospel so that many Tamboli whether Muslims or Hindus could know the God who created them.



Population:

Nepal : 700

Total 224,000

Language: Maithili,

Bhojpuri, Urdu & Nepali

Believers: 0