

# Muslim Teli



## Introduction / History:

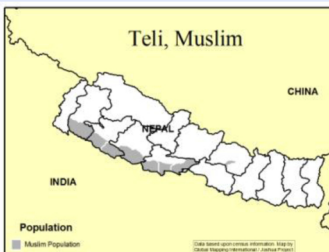
The Teli get their name from the Sanskrit word *tailika*, which means “oil pressed from a variety of seeds”. The Teli have long been known as an oil-pressing or oil - selling caste in India. Millions of Teli continue in the oil-presser occupation. One legend of the Teli says that one old man with three sons divided his property among the men. One son who gathered leaf produce became the Bharbhunja caste, one son who gathered flowers and distilled them became the Kalar community and the last son who gathered seeds and nuts to press them became the Teli community.

## What are their lives like?

Today the over 20 million Teli people can be found in more than 600 of India's districts, most of Pakistan and Bangladesh and the south Terai region of Nepal. About 20% of all Teli people are Sunni Muslim and the rest are Hindu. In Nepal and much of northern India the Teli Muslim are moving into oil-related businesses, agriculture and unskilled labour jobs. The modern oil industry has pushing many city and village Teli out of their customary occupation. In Nepal the Teli are positioned in the “unclean” but touchable caste category. The Teli Muslim in Nepal tend to speak primarily Nepali as well as Bhojpuri, Urdu and Awadhi.

## Ministry needs:

There is a small handful of Nepali Teli who have come to Christ, praise God. These are only among the larger Hindu population however. No known workers or believers are present among the Teli Muslim in Nepal or India. Pray for the fledgling Hindu-background church in Nepal to reach out to their Muslim community.



## Population:

Nepal : 2,300

Total 3,994,000

## Language: Nepali,

Bhojpuri, Urdu & Awadhi

## Believers: 0