

People Clusters for South Asia as implemented in the Joshua Project database

We regret we have not been able to form "Clusters" of similar communities (people groups) more accurately and usefully, in South Asia. We advise using our South Asia people clusters judiciously, because they are likely to mislead if not understood.

Following is an explanation of how we have formed People Clusters in South Asia, using the Adi Karnataka community as an example.

Community	ISO	Language	Speakers
Adi Karnataka	kan	Kannada	3,444,000
Adi Karnataka	tel	Telugu	233,000
Adi Karnataka	tcy	Tulu	14,000
Adi Karnataka	tam	Tamil	6,800
Adi Karnataka	knn	Konkani	5,900
Adi Karnataka	gom	Konkani, Goan	1,070
Adi Karnataka	eng	English	900
Adi Karnataka	brw	Bellari	540
Adi Karnataka	mal	Malayalam	10

The Adi Karnataka community includes 3,444,000 speakers of the Kannada language, and 233,000 speakers of the Telugu language, and so forth. We have placed this community in the Kannada people cluster, because there are more speakers of that language than any other language.

But what does that have to do with a proper classification of the Adi Karnataka community? Not much, it's probably fair to say. In South Asia, most communities are not defined according to language spoken. Most communities speak several languages, and the languages spoken have little to do with the race / ethnicity / class of the community. (Race / ethnicity / culture is what clustering OUTSIDE South Asia is based upon, and language-spoken ties those of similar race / ethnicity / culture together.)

Our clustering for South Asia produces clusters of Kannada speakers (or whatever the language may be), but those speakers are likely drawn from many different communities (people groups). There may be high caste individuals in the Kannada Cluster, and Dalits in the same cluster. Racially, individuals may be very different one from another. Some may be Muslim, others Hindu or Buddhist.

We use this approach to clustering in South Asia simply from expediency, because we have not been able to devise a more accurate and useful alternative that is appropriate for South Asia. Please use our South Asia People Clusters with understanding.