



India



Introduction to INDIA

THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA, the world's second most populated country, boasts a diversity of peoples, languages and religions, with over 2,500 people groups living within its borders. Home to fantastic wealth, rich culture, corruption, and widespread poverty, India is a land that tantalizes the imagination and staunchly refuses to be generalized.

The INDIAN people

Total population:	1,166,079,217
Children under 15:	362,874,979
Average Life Expectancy:	69.89 years
Per capita annual income:	\$2,900
% children in primary school:	88.81%
Average years of education:	10 years
Literacy rate:	61%
Internet users:	81 million
Cell phones in use:	427.3 million
Major/official language(s):	Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, many others

Risk issues impacting children:

- There are high rates of preventable disease, including diarrhea from unsafe drinking water and unsanitary conditions.
- High number of children born with HIV/AIDS.
- Extreme numbers of children laborers, often working in hazardous conditions.
- Caste system creates unequal access to education.

More about INDIA

Capital city:	New Delhi
Type of government:	Federal Republic
Square kilometers:	3,287,263
General terrain:	Southern upland plain, flat-to-rolling plain along the Ganges, western deserts, Himalayas
Major industries/jobs:	Textiles, chemicals, food processing, steel, software
National motto:	"Truth alone triumphs"
Major airport(s):	Indira Gandhi International in Delhi, Netaji, Subhas Chandra Basu International in Calcutta, Chhatrapati Shivaji International in Bombay

Reaching INDIA

Currently classified as World B: Somewhat Reached

Major religions:

Hindu	- 80.5%
Muslim	- 13.4%
Christian	- 2.3%
Sikh	- 1.9%
Other	- 1.9%

Christian groups:

Protestant	- 31.8%
Roman Catholic	- 23.7%
Independent	- 22.2%
Other	- 19.3%
Orthodox	- 3%

Unreached People Groups:	2,190 (90.5% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.028
Average annual baptisms:	2,289,930
Foreign missionaries:	8,400
Per million:	7.41
National Christian workers/pastors:	300,000
Per million:	264.46
Number of churches/congregations:	122,000

Children's ministry in INDIA

Overview: • India has the largest population of children in the world. Though there are many well-developed children's ministry organizations working to nurture, reach and disciple children, there are not enough to meet the great need.

- Most churches have Sunday schools. Children's camps, holistic child care, literature and Christian music are also commonly available.
- While there is a new openness to the gospel by the predominantly non-Christian community, there is a need to look at new ways of evangelism (the traditional way of children coming to church is diminishing), in addition to how to reach the unbelieving parents of the many children who have come to Christ.
- Because it is so large, India has great regional diversity; it is like many countries in one. In village areas, churches are held in house churches. Programs for children are held in the afternoon or midweek.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
122,000 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
362,874,979 children for Christ