

Bonda Tribe

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In news

Bonda Tribe of Odisha sees rise in distress migration

About Bonda Tribe

- They live in in the isolated hill regions of the Malkangiri district of Odisha near the junction of the three states of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh
- Other names of Bonda tribes are Bondo, Bondo Poraja, Bhonda, or Remo
- They belong to a Munda ethnic group
- **There are two different Bonda tribes:** the Upper Bondas with a population of 6,700 who are the most isolated from mainstream Indian society, and the Lower Bonda with a population of 17,000. Upper Bondas have almost no connection to the outside world.
- The Bonda are a scheduled tribe of India and are also known as the Remo (meaning “people” in the Bonda language). The tribe is one of the oldest and most primitive in mainland India
- They are one of the 75 **Primitive Tribal Groups** identified by the Government of India.
- **Their language belongs to the Munda branch of the Austroasiatic language family. It is most closely related to the Gutob language**

Their society and culture

- Bonda boys are expected to marry between the ages of 10 and 12
- A form of dowry (known as *Gining*) is paid for brides.
- Divorce, also known as “Lung Sisi” is also an issue within the Bonda people. In some extreme circumstances, such as if a Bonda woman is divorced for adultery, the

former husband demands double the price that was paid for their marriage

- When death or *mora* occurs, it is custom to sacrifice a cow on the tenth day, a practice also known as “Gaitang
- **In Bonda society, women enjoy a privileged position.**
- They are the primary workers and providers of food for the community.
- This matriarchal dominance is also seen in the marital norms of the community. Bonda girls largely marry boys who are at least five to ten years younger than them.
- Thus the girl looks after her husband as he grows up and in turn he cares for his older wife.

Bonded labour system among Bonda tribe

- The unfree labour or *Goti* system in India is known as *Gufam* by the Bonda people.
- A male bonded labour is called *Gufam-Rem* whereas a female laborer is a *Gufam-Boy*.
- Bonda people are often led to bonded labour through marriage, also known as *diosing*.