



A Look At India Linguistically



It has been predicted that in forty years India will be the largest nation in the world. It already contains 15% of the world's populations. The constitution of India recognizes fifteen official languages (Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kasmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu). It's no wonder it is subject to sociolinguistic study.

India also has caste system and language hierarchy. Language plays definite roles in social and political status. These are difficult to break away from and status is often hereditary. Hindi is the most spoken ethnic language and English is widely spoken but is considered a foreign language. The population is also quite diverse ethnically 83% Hindu, 11.2% Muslim, 2.6% Christian, 1.9% Sikhs, .7% Buddhists and .5% Jains.



Language plays key roles in the conflict between India and Pakistan. For more information on that see these web sites:

<http://www.india-today.com/>

