

Life in kamda

Like the villages around it, Kamda is the territory of the munda, an indigenous ethnic group, one of the many Indian tribes that are generically called "adivasis". Only in the state of Jharkhand, 32 tribal groups have been registered, including the Munda people.



Despite their poverty and their continuing battle for survival, they have preserved the rhythms and varied heritage of colorful dance and music that is an integral part of their festivals and rituals. Culturally, it is a very rich ethnic group. There is a great tradition of tribal dances where men and women participate in different roles. The town has maintained many of its customs and traditions, largely because of its fear of contact with the outside, which not only influences cultural influences, but also fundamentally marks progress and development in the area.

There is a great respect for the elderly. In fact, the elderly, whether male or female, is highly venerated; his/her opinion weighs heavily on the decisions of the family.

They use a language of their own, the *Mundari*, although in many cases they also speak Hindi. English is less common in the area. Their alphabet is very particular; it does not resemble anything we can use in other countries.

The main occupation of the population is agriculture, hunting, there are also trade fairs where the community production is sold: embroidery, rice and vegetables.

There are no irrigation systems; only one crop is achieved per year, during the rainy season. They complete their economy with some domestic animals (hens, goats ...) and by harvesting roots and fruits in the forest. When there are no other things, they make firewood to sell and chop down trees to make planks and boards that they take to the market to sell.

They must be careful with some animals in the area, elephants can be dangerous when they get angry; although not very often, they can easily destroy a house or seriously attack someone.

Kamda has a population of approximately 10,000 people, scattered in small rural districts called *tolis*, where there are between 5 and 10 houses. Most homes are built with mud and veneers, without running water, toilets or electricity. It is one of the poorest areas of the country, with an extreme climate that can reach 40°C in the rainy season and fall below 0°C during the dry season.



our school

LANGUAGE A different culture

Both Hindi and Mundari use for writing the *Devanagari* alphabet, a type of writing that has its origin in older ones, probably originating from the 3rd century BC. The graphic representations of the sounds are totally different from those used in other parts of the world. It is written from left to right and uses 12 *svara* (pure sounds, or vowels) and 34 *vyanjana* (ornate sounds, consonants). One *Akshara* (syllable) is formed by combining one or none *vyanjana* and one or more *svara*, representing unity.

