UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE GROUPS AND AFFINITY GROUPS

How do you identify yourself? You might say, "My name is **Sandy**" or "I was born in **Idaho**" or "I’m an American." Maybe you say that you are an American Indian or that you are a Cherokee Indian. The more specific you are—the better people understand you.

That’s a little like a people group. A child might say, "My name is Aadil and I was born in India." Maybe he would say he is a South Asian Indian or that he is Bihari. Now you know the name of his people group, Bihari. But then he says, "I live in Dallas, TX."

That’s the way it is with many people groups. Most of the people live in their original country, but more and more are living all over the world. You will find the Bihari people in India, in Germany, in the United States—lots of places.

Here are some definitions:

A **people group** is a group of individuals, frequently speaking the same language, with a shared self-identity and worldview. ** They are people who speak the same language, call themselves by the people group name (like, “I’m Bihari”) and think about the world in a similar way—is hospitality important? What role does religion take? When should you get married? **

An **affinity group** is a large grouping of related peoples that share similar origins, languages and cultures. There are hundreds of people groups in an affinity group. ** The origin could be YEARS ago, like Europe in the days of the Roman Empire. The languages they speak could be “romance” languages like Italian and Spanish—they are similar but not identical. The cultures are unique in each country (Italy and Spain) but they are not as different as Italy and India. **

Your PRAYERthreads KIDS people group is part of an affinity group. You can go to the Affinity Group resources to learn more.
AFFINITY GROUP RESOURCES

(We have attempted to provide children’s websites. In some cases, these websites and videos were developed for Christian college students and adult users. The vocabulary and content concerning war, AIDS, and other world crises may be too mature for small children. An asterisk* marks those where extra discretion and assistance is advised.)

American peoples (AMP)
http://americanpeoples.imb.org/kids

Central Asian peoples (CAP)
http://centralasia.imb.org/kids/

Deaf peoples (DEAF)
Website under development

East Asian peoples (EAP)—
http://eastasianpeoples.imb.org/multimedia/video/a-day-at-school/
Additional downloadable fliers on kompray.imb.org

European peoples (EURO)
http://imbeurope.org/resources/

Northern African and Middle Eastern peoples (NAME)
http://namepeoples.imb.org/

South Asian peoples (ASAP)
http://www.caravanfriends.org/

* You can also follow http://www.mreport.org as it highlights how God is working in India.
* Check the m_report’s main Web site for stories, pictures and video:
  http://bit.ly/92nt00
* www.prayforpak.com/—for pics of children throughout Pakistan & ways to pray

Southeast Asian peoples (SEA)
http://www.seasianpeoples.org/

Sub-Saharan African peoples (SSAP)—
* www.africastories.org for videos

Impact a lost world through prayer!