

BINJHAL:

Location (Major): Baragarh, Bolangir, Sonepur, Nuapada, Sambalpur

Language: Sambalpuri Odia & Laria (Indo-Aryan),

Population: 137040

Major Festivals: Karama, Bhadrab, Harali parab, Pusapunci or Madhen parab,

Magha parab, Makulbhaja parab



The Binjhal tribe, whose name means "without sweat," is believed to have migrated from Central India to Odisha and worship Goddess Bindhyabasini as their supreme deity. They live in small, linear settlements with simple houses featuring two rooms and verandahs. The tribe is organized into exogamous clans, each regulating marriage, with a patrilineal and patrilocal family structure where inheritance follows the male line. Marriages are arranged through various methods like negotiation or service, and practices such as cross-cousin marriage, remarriage, and divorce are allowed. They observe rites for birth and death, including pollution periods, and their social matters are generally handled by elderly villagers rather than a formal council.