



## Siddi Community

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Recently released *film Rhythm of Dammam* highlights the **marginalised Siddi community** in India.

- **Origin:** They are descendants of **African slaves** brought by the **Portuguese** in the late **17<sup>th</sup> century** during the **trans-Indian Ocean slave trade**.
  - They exhibit **Negroid physical traits**.
  - They are also known by different synonyms such as **Habshi and Badsha**.
- **Present-Day Location:** They mainly reside along the **western coast** of India, particularly in the states of **Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Karnataka**.
- **ST Status:** In India, the Union government in **2003**, classified **Siddis** under the list of **Scheduled Tribes**.
  - They are also included in the Centre's list of **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups**.
- **Family System:** The community follows a **nuclear family system**, although extended families exist.
- **Cultural Expression:** The Siddis are known for their **folk music and dances, such as Dhamal and Rasda**, with **men** performing the **Dhamal dance**.

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