

Islamization and Muslim Identity: The Case of Meos

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ABSTRACT Many Muslim communities in India show the persistence of non-Islamic cultural features. This has resulted in the existence of heterogeneity among the Indian Muslims. Some authors assess that ultimately all Muslim communities will shed the pre-Islamic and non-Islamic features and show movement towards high tradition of orthodox form of Islam. The alternative view point that Islam in India must be studied in anthropological perspective of viewing their cultural in totality of both the Islamic and non-Islamic practices. The authors examine the case of the Meos of Haryana who were Islamized but continue to exhibit many non-Islamic features in their social structure. Thus the Meos have retained their separate ethnic identity while moving towards greater Islamization.