

1. Description

- 1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family: Gbaya-Bossangoa, Adamawa-Ubangi, Niger-Congo
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): gya
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): 4° 36'N, 18°56'E, Occupy: Central African Republic, Cameroon, Congo
- 1.4 Brief history: The Gbaya started as a peaceful people in the present-day Central African Republic; however, in the 1800s the Fulani people came to raid the Gbaya many times to sell to the Slave trade. To avoid the raids, some of the Gbaya people moved to what is now Cameroon. Even though the raids continued, the Gbaya prevailed and now have a population almost a million strong.
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: Christian missionaries, the Fulani raiders, The French
- 1.6 Ecology (natural environment): African rainforest/fertile savannah for farming
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: Population: ~970,000 (end of 20th Century)

2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): Cassava and Corn
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: hunting and fishing. The Gbaya do not have enough land nor financial stability to domesticate animals.
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: Firearms. The French occupied the area in the late 1800s to the mid 1900s.
- 2.4 Food storage: Smoking, refrigerators, pantries
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: Men work in the fields
- 2.6 Land tenure: N/A
- 2.7 Ceramics: N/A
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: N/A
- 2.9 Food taboos: N/A
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft? The Gbaya are landlocked. They have small canoes for rivers.

3. Anthropometry

- 3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): Male: 157cm-159cm female: N/A
- 3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): Male: 61 Kg Female: N/A

4. Life History, mating, marriage

- 4.1 Age at menarche (f): N/A
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): 16
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f): 3-5
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f): 2 years
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): 16
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: None! The Gbaya do not permit divorce because marriage is seen as being between two FAMILIES instead of just the bride and groom.
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: 30% polygynous. Males can have more than one wife if he can afford it.
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: The Gbaya use a dowry system but the price was not given.
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns: The Gbaya's eldest family member gives the household to the next male in the family upon retirement or death.
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: One father was quoted to say that the younger generation is not easy to control and the older generations were harder working.
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: NONE this is despised greatly within the Gbaya
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): Women are required to marry out of the clan to ensure Gbaya unity.
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized? In the Gbaya there is only one father per conception. He helps raise the child but the women raise the younger children as a group.
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows") The female is respected while pregnant.
- 4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)? ONE FETUS means there is ONE FATHER to the Gbaya
- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape. Low because marriage is so highly regarded.
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin)
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms? Females can have sexual freedoms but only within her marriage.
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring: Within the Gbaya, there is no extramarital partners.
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children? Other women, or the other wife in polygynous relationships, in the clan raise a motherless child.
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females. 2.79:1
- 4.22 Evidence for couvades: None
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older). See 4.15
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect? This is avoided because marriages are between a man and woman from separate clans
- 4.24 Joking relationships? N/A
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations: Patrilineal
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules: The Gbaya believe incest is a sin.
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony? Yes.

- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name? N/A
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?) Marriages are arranged and they are between two clans.
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? Parents arrange marriage for their children.
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: None

Warfare/homicide

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: 0-3%
- 4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: Violent death is rare in present Gbaya. In the past, the Fulani (outgroup) raided and killed Gbaya.
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: See 4.15
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations): Some Gbaya work for major mines and therefore work with other ethnic groups
- 4.18 Cannibalism? N/A

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: 20-100
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): None
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): Clans called *zu duk*
- 5.4 Post marital residence: Man's house
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): Only territorial if necessary resource is threatened.
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): Adult men are superior to women and children. However, one father was quoted to say that the younger generation is getting harder to control.
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: N/A
- 5.8 Village and house organization: Co-operation within the clan.
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): all equal with men owning land
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? Raised cot with mosquito net
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: Clan
- 5.12 Trade: Within clans as well as outside world (mining, diamonds)
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies? Chief only elected in wartime

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

- 6.0 Time allocation to RCR: 1-3 days per week
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): None
- 6.2 Stimulants: N/A
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): baptism, burial, puberty: females-"bana" males: "labi"
- 6.4 Other rituals: N/A
- 6.5 Myths (Creation): Genesis: 1-2
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): The Gbaya have traditional (ancestral) art, music, and games.
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR: Both sexes worship. Only Men participate
- 6.8 Missionary effect: MAJOR! The French converted nearly all the Gbaya
- 6.9 RCR revival: N/A
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: Christian: Heaven and hell
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people? N/A
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy? N/A
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.): Christian

7. Adornment

- 7.1 Body paint:
- 7.2 Piercings:
- 7.3 Haircut:
- 7.4 Scarification:
- 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.):
- 7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment:
- 7.7 Sex differences in adornment:
- 7.8 Missionary effect: MAJOR! Under French colonial rule, the Gbaya were forced to become Christian and give up most rituals.
- 7.9 Cultural revival in adornment: **None.**

8. Kinship systems

- 8.1 Sibling classification system: Western sibling classification
- 8.2 Sororate, levirate: None
- 8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.): None

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

The Gbaya have a facebook.com page that has 2 likes

Numbered references

1. Ethnologue.com

2. Young, Eric. "Encyclopedia of Africa." *Google Books*. Web. 01 May 2012. <<http://books.google.com/books?id=A0XNvklcqbwC>>.