

1. Description

1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family:

Kuranko, Koranko(2)

1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com):

Knk(2)

1.3 Location (latitude/longitude):

1.4 Brief history:

The Kuranko come from a migrating tribe called the Mara who were likely a warrior group who conquered the land that the Kuranko now occupy and more in the 17th century. They were in turn invaded by other neighbors in the 19th century and Islam was introduced.(1-pg 2)

1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors:

Islam was introduced through their neighbors the Fula(1-pg 2)

1.6 Ecology (natural environment):

Mountainous region in northwestern Guinea Highlands (1-pg 3)

1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density

Population Size:125,000,Village size: Less than 1000, density: twenty-five- fifty people per square mile (1-pg 6) (1-pg 3)

2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s):

Rice, millet, cassava, groundnuts, sesame, maize (1-pg 6)(1-pg 8)

2.2 Main protein-lipid sources:

Chicken, fish(1-pg 12)

2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?:

Native gun (1-pg 12)

2.4 Food storage:

2.5 Sexual division of production:

Women The heavy labor of rice production is done by men while women garden and cultivate supplementary crops.(1- pg 85)

2.6 Land tenure:

Land is not individually owned a chief owns the land. Land is abundant and the people constantly shift cultivation to keep the land healthy.(1-pg 6)

2.7 Ceramics:

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:

2.9 Food taboos:

2.10 Canoes/watercraft?

3. Anthropometry

3.1 Mean adult height (m and f):

3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f):

4. Life History, mating, marriage

4.1 Age at menarche (f):23

4.2 Age at first birth (m and f):

4.3 Completed family size (m and f):

4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f):

4.5 Age first marriage (m and f):

In late adolescence for females is when the first marriage occurs. Men; however, must wait seven years after initiation to get married (1-pg 95) (1-pg 108)

4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce:

Divorce is difficult due to the bridewealth that must be returned. Around 10% of marriages end in divorce.(1-pg 96)(1-pg 113)

4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously:

Polygonous marriage is common but no statistics were found on the subject.

4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?:

Gifts may include mats, money, domestic animals, kola, rice and are usually valued between 50 and 150 pounds(\$30.8-\$90)(1-pg 96)

4.9 Inheritance patterns:87?

4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict:

4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals:

4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy):

4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized?

4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows")

It is believed that the man is responsible for the child and the woman is simply a passive vessel that the child grow in.(1-pg 87)

4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?

4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape

4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin)

4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?

Women are not allowed to have adulterous affairs but if it happens it rarely leads to divorce and there is no jealousy from the husband instead the husband demands she tell him who her lover was and he has to pay a fee.(1-pg 98)

4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring

4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?

They stay with their father but are at a disadvantage because they do not have a mother. (1-pg 105)

4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females

4.22 Evidence for couvades

4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older)

4.24 Kin avoidance and respect?

There is a very formal relationship with many restrictions(1-pg 108)

4.24 Joking relationships?

For men joking relationships occur with his wife's younger siblings and his elder siblings' spouses. For a woman the joking relationships occur with her elder siblings spouses and her husband's younger siblings. Joking relationships are between possible spouses.(1-pg 109)

4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations

4.26 Incest avoidance rules

Brothers are forbidden from touching their sisters waist or neck and must not sit on her bed or use sexual language near her. (1-pg 128)

4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?

4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?

4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?)

Within the community (1-pg 103)

4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)?

They are arranged by the father before birth or in early infancy(1-pg 96)

4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who:

Warfare/homicide

4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare:

4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death:

4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing:

4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations):

4.18 Cannibalism?

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size:

5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality):

They divide the year into the dry season and the wet season. (1-pg 7)

5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes):

5.4 Post marital residence:

Women go to live with her husband's family.(1-pg 97)

5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense):

5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex):

5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships:

For men joking relationships occur with his wife's younger siblings and his elder siblings' spouses. For a woman the joking relationships occur with her elder siblings spouses and her husband's younger siblings. Joking relationships are between possible spouses.(1-pg 109)

5.8 Village and house organization:

5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses):

5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?

In beds(1-pg 108)

5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc:

5.12 Trade:

They sell their rice on the markets and buy necessities with the money they obtain(1-pg 7)

5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

6.0 Time allocation to RCR:

6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine):

Some men are considered bestegi which translates to medicine owners or sorcerers.(1-pg 86)

6.2 Stimulants:

6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal):

Both male and females have a initiation into adulthood ritual.(1-pg 196)

6.4 Other rituals:

As children of both sexes get older they go through several different cults and are initiated into each one. At each level they do different things that is aimed at helping them in adult life.(1-pg 225)(1-pg 232)

6.5 Myths (Creation):

6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games):

During the celebrations during a girls initiation xylophones are played and other entertainment is provided(1-pg 191)

6.7 Sex differences in RCR:

In the Female initiation more entertainment is provided and more of the proceedings take place in the village while in the male initiation (1-pg 191)(1-pg(197)

6.8 Missionary effect:

6.9 RCR revival:

6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs:

6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?

6.12 Is there teknonymy?

6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.)

7. Adornment

7.1 Body paint:

A cult called the Sewulanne plaster themselves with white clay and then are spotted with red ochre and charcoal.(1-pg 189)

7.2 Piercings:

A group called Gbansogoron or cheek piercers pierce their faces with porcupine quills to prove bravery.(1-pg 188)

7.3 Haircut:

Girls hair are cut during their initiation ritual.(1-pg 187)

7.4 Scarification:

Food is frequently sacrificed to spirits or to God.(1-pg 197)

7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.):

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment:

Neophyte girls are dressed in white gowns during their initiation.(1-pg 187)

7.7 Sex differences in adornment:

7.8 Missionary effect:

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment:

8. Kinship systems

8.1 Sibling classification system:

8.2 Sororate, levirate:

8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.):

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

Numbered references

1. Jackson, Michael. *The Kuranko Dimensions of Social Reality in a West African Society*. London: C. Hurst &, 1977. Print.

2. Lewis, M. Paul (ed.), 2009. *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, Sixteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com/>.