

## 1. Description

- 1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family: Mande, a language of Sierra Leone. Belong to a branch of the Niger-Congo family. Divided into East Mande and West Mande.
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): men (Sierra Leone)
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): 8 degrees North, 13 degrees West
- 1.4 Brief history: Known to have been among the first on the continent to produce strip weaving (woven textiles) and the expansion of the Songhai Empire across West Africa.
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: Hierarchical.
- 1.6 Ecology (natural environment): Mande people inhabit various environments, from coastal rainforests to sparse Sahara.
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: Population size is 1,480,000 (Sierra Leone) and 1,499,700 (all countries).

## 2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): Millet production. Believed to be the first to domesticate African rice.
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: N/A
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: Controlled by the blacksmiths.
- 2.4 Food storage: N/A
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: Heavy farmwork done by men, women have both farm and domestic duties.
- 2.6 Land tenure: N/A
- 2.7 Ceramics: Art in the form of jewelry and carvings.
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: N/A
- 2.9 Food taboos: Cattle raised primarily for prestige, dowry payments, and sacrificial offerings. (No specific taboos)
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft?: N/A

## 3. Anthropometry

- 3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): N/A
- 3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): N/A

## 4. Life History, mating, marriage

- 4.1 Age at menarche (f): N/A
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): N/A
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f): N/A
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f): N/A
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): N/A
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: Common and easily obtained on grounds of adultery, etc. Man or woman entitled to divorce even without a cause. Party seeking the divorce must pay the customary *dai* of rupees sixty only.
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: N/A
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: No custom in paying any marriage-price. Proposal comes from women's side, girl normally chooses her husband.
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns: N/A
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: N/A
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: N/A
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): Marriage is strictly exogamous. The wife and husband must belong to separate clans. The children take the mother's clan.
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized?: N/A
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows"): N/A
- 4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?: N/A
- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape: N/A
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin): N/A
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?: N/A
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring: N/A
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?: The father raises the children if the mother dies.
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females: N/A

- 4.22 Evidence for couvades: N/A
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older): N/A
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect?: N/A
- 4.24 Joking relationships?: *Sanankuya* (cousinage) exists. Established between any two participants who have willingly broken the ice. May treat one another as cousins or close family members with familiar or humorous insults.
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations: Inherit from mother's side.
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules: N/A
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?: N/A
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name? Inherited from mother's side.
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?): Within.
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)?: Not arranged, girl usually chooses her husband.
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: If father-in-law dies, his *nokrom* (representative of father's clan in mother's family) marries the widowed mother-in-law and becomes the husband of both the mother and daughter.

## **Warfare/homicide**

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: N/A
- 4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: Mande were fierce headhunters.
- 4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: Killed during raids, and for sacrificial purposes.
- 4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations): The practice of head hunting point a link with the Nagas and Mande.
- 4.18 Cannibalism?: No cannibalism.

## **5. Socio-Political organization and interaction**

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: N/A
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): N/A
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): Men occupy the village-based leadership positions (headman and imam, religious leader) Women have their own organization and have the "Circumcision queen", who is responsible for the womens' circumcision ceremonies and is an expert on health, medicine, and the raising of children.
- 5.4 Post marital residence: Man moves in with his wife.
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): N/A
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions? (age and sex): N/A
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: N/A
- 5.8 Village and house organization: Women own property but the men control the society, the property, and domestic affairs.
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): N/A
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?: N/A
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: Matrilineal society, not a matriarchal one.
- 5.12 Trade: Share a long history of trade with the Akan people. Traded in jewelry and semi-precious stones from distant parts of the Sahara and Sahel.
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?: Descendants of kings and generals had a higher status than the rest of the clan.

## **6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)**

- 6.0 Time allocation to RCR: N/A
- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): N/A
- 6.2 Stimulants: N/A
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): N/A
- 6.4 Other rituals: N/A
- 6.5 Myths (Creation): N/A
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): Best known traditional Mande music is played by the kora, a stringed instrument with more than 21 strings.
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR: Patrilineal (Inheritance of property, names, titles through the male line) and patriarchal (male acts as primary authority figure).
- 6.8 Missionary effect: N/A
- 6.9 RCR revival: N/A
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: Bells ring even in the afterlife.

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.): N/A

## **7. Adornment**

7.1 Body paint: N/A

7.2 Piercings: N/A

7.3 Haircut: N/A

7.4 Scarification: N/A

7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): Bells on necklaces are believed to be heard by spirits and ring in both worlds (the living and the dead). Mande hunters wear a single bell that can be stilled when necessary. Women wear multiple bells, which refer to the concepts of community because they all ring together. Women wear veils, hair in plaits,

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: N/A

7.7 Sex differences in adornment: N/A

7.8 Missionary effect: N/A

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment: N/A

## **8. Kinship systems**

8.1 Sibling classification system: N/A

8.2 Sororate, levirate: N/A

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

## **9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):**

### **Numbered references**

1. [http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=men](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=men)

2. <http://www.webmande.net/>

3. [http://mandelang.kunstkamera.ru/index/mande\\_languages/mande\\_family/](http://mandelang.kunstkamera.ru/index/mande_languages/mande_family/)

4. <http://www.everyculture.com/Africa-Middle-East/Mande.html>

5. <http://www.enotes.com/west-africa-reference/west-africa>

6. <http://achik-mande.blogspot.com/p/cultivation-and-crops.html>

7. <http://books.google.com/books?id=Kzm4-D1->

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