

Nande of Kenya

1. Description

- 1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family: Nandi; Cemual; Nande
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): niq
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): 639-3 (Kenya)
- 1.4 Brief history: The earliest ancestors of the Nande lived in mountain caves between Uganda and the Congo. The Nande live in fairly spread out groups so they were relatively unaffected by missionaries, and not very exposed to Christianity.
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: The closest neighbors to the Nande are the Masai. The Masai are a powerful group, but they interact relatively peacefully with the Nande, and there is often inter-marriage between the two groups.
- 1.6 Ecology (natural environment): The natural environment of the Nande are the mountains between Uganda and the Congo.
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: There are about 903,000 Nande, and instead of villages they are organized into 5-12 homes in groups spread out across their region.

2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): The main sources of carbohydrates for the Nande are sweet potatoes and pumpkins
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: The Nande hunt ox, and monkeys. They also eat a lot of honey, and make wine and beer from the date palm sap and sorghum respectively.
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: The Nande use hunting dogs, they use poisoned harpoon-like spears to kill larger animals. The Nande often dig holes to trap their game.
- 2.4 Food storage: Food is stored in pots made by the women
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: Men and Women prepare and eat their food separately (the men go first)
- 2.6 Land tenure: Individual families don't usually own large lots of land, and the land that they do own belongs to the man.
- 2.7 Ceramics: Pottery made by the women
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: N/A
- 2.9 Food taboos: The Nande do not eat eggs; an ox struck by lightning can't be eaten in the home; women usually don't eat fowl
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft?: The Nande do not travel by water

3. Anthropometry

- 3.1 Mean adult height (m and f): About 1,681 mm for men and 1,655 mm for women
- 3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f): N/A

4. Life History, mating, marriage

- 4.1 Age at menarche (f): between the ages 13 and 15
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): It is common for boys to become sexually active with girls who have recently entered puberty. This results in pregnancies fairly early in a woman's life (as compared to European and North American countries)
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f):
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f):
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): Women normally marry when they reach puberty/sexual maturity (which correlates with the early birth age), and men are usually much older than the women they marry because they must wait until they are seen as mature members the society.
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: There is no equivalent to divorce for the Nande, but the most common reason for a marriage ending is if the woman is infertile
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: Most men have multiple wives, and wives are commonly shared between friends and family members
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: The dowry is paid by the man's family to the woman's father and is usually some combination of goats, fowl and cows
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns: Inheritance is patrilineal and goes first to the eldest son of the deceased (man).
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: If a woman has twins she must move away from her husband (even though this birth is considered lucky)
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals:
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): The Nande usually marry other Nande or a member of the neighboring Masai tribe.
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized?: The men are important in determining the character of their child.
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows"): Women are the vessels for offspring; men are not allowed to attend the birth of their children for the most part
- 4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?: The Nande recognize that children are the result of sex
- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape: If at all rape usually happens to the older girls, and if this results in a woman becoming pregnant the child must be strangled at birth.
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin):

4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?: It is common for sex to occur before a woman is married, but once she is married she must remain faithful to her husband (though as said before wives are often shared with friends or family).

4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring: Men sometimes are required to pay some sort of dowry if the impregnate a woman that they are not married to.

4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?: Usually the other wives of the same man, or some other woman in the tribe.

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): The older a man is, the more respected he is as a father

4.24 Kin avoidance and respect?: N/A

4.24 Joking relationships?: N/A

4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations: Usually name association goes with the woman for female children and the man for male children (bilateral)

4.26 Incest avoidance rules: N/A

4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?: Usually a series of feasts, and once the man and woman move into their own home the marriage process is considered complete.

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?): N/A

4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)?: The male's side of the family usually arranges the marriages

4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: N/A

Warfare/homicide

4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: N/A

4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: A lot of crimes are considered by the Nande to be punishable by death, so ingroup death is more common than outgroup death. A man can kill his brother and not be punished, but any more extended relative killing results in some sort of punishment (thought usually not death).

4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: A Nande can be killed for stealing livestock from another Nande

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

4.18 Cannibalism?: N/A

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: The Nande live in sections of 5-12 homes

5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): The Nande do not move around very much or very often

5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): Nande society includes chiefs and medicine and is very hierarchical

5.4 Post marital residence: A married couple live in their own home

5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): Since there is a relatively peaceful relationship between the Nande and their neighbors this is not really an issue.

5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): Children only live in their parent's huts until a young age and then live in their own huts

5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: N/A

5.8 Village and house organization: The Nande live in huts, usually one room most of which is dedicated to food and other storage.

5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): All huts of the Nande are built in the same way and men women and children are all separated

5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?: They do not sleep in hammocks, but on semi-raised platform in their huts

5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: Public opinion is very important to the Nande and that often keeps people from wrongdoing

5.12 Trade: There is not a lot of information on or evidence of trade

5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?: The Chief and medicine men are seen at the top of the social hierarchy

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

6.0 Time allocation to RCR: There are many differing and contradicting views between members of the Nande about religion, worship and rituals; There are ceremonies for major events

6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): Medicine men are very important to Nande society and they take responsibility for medical procedures like circumcision as well as deciding whether or not some is guilty of a crime. This position is hereditary and only passes to male sons of a current medicine man

6.2 Stimulants: The Nande (men mostly) drink fermented liquor, and the medicine men make a paste that is given to warriors to help them in hunting and battle

6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): Circumcision is a huge part of a Nande life for males and females; this usually happens around age 15.

6.4 Other rituals: There is a lot of ancestor worship because the dead are seen as the driving forces behind tribal life; the main consistent factor related to ritual practice is the Nande generally fear the dead and they believe in Kiet (world order). There is a lot of animal worship (both for good luck and bad luck)

6.5 Myths (Creation): The dead are the most important part of Nande religious life

- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): Ceremonies usually include some type of dance and/or singing
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR: Sons are beaten for wrongdoing more often than daughters
- 6.8 Missionary effect: Missionaries didn't have a large effect on the Nande because of the spread out nature of their tribe.
- 6.9 RCR revival: N/A
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: There are many differing views on what one should do after someone dies to either honor or ward-off the spirit, so it is hard to generalize
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?: There are many different superstitions surrounding naming the dead (one is that you must not call the dead by name).
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy?: Many people in the same family have interchangeable names.
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.): Mostly animal worship and worship of the dead and their spirits

7. Adornment

- 7.1 Body paint: The only evidence of body paint is when a warrior kills another person, and then he will paint half of his torso red and the other half white
- 7.2 Piercings: This really only occurs in men after they are circumcised, and the earlobe is supposed to be weighed down so it is about an inch long.
- 7.3 Haircut: N/A
- 7.4 Scarification: N/A
- 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): This is mostly only done during ceremonies, but the Nande also wear heavily beaded leather.
- 7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: More adornment is present during ritual, but it is not specified what exactly that entails
- 7.7 Sex differences in adornment: Women do not wear the weighted earrings that men do
- 7.8 Missionary effect: N/A
- 7.9 Cultural revival in adornment: N/A

8. Kinship systems

- 8.1 Sibling classification system: Because men are allowed to have multiple wives, and because the children move out of their parent's houses at an early age, siblings are not always well defined, but they all grow up together.
- 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

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