

******Due to the scarce information on the Ndobobo tribe, I resorted to researching the individual tribes that make up the Ndobobo group. There are 13 smaller tribes that say they are a part of the Tikari Tribe, decedent from the Ndobobo peoples.******

1. Description

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

- Democratic Republic of Congo, Makanza (community), Ndobobo, (2)

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

- NDW

1.3 Location (latitude/longitude):

- 1.00, 18.70

1.4 Brief history:

- population movements in Adamoua pushed the "pre-Tikari" Ndobobo into the Bamiléké plateau (3)

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

1.6 Ecology (natural environment):

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

- Population: 14,000 (1)
- Four groups of 17 villages (2)
- "We are the Ndobobo—Thirteen Autochthonous Peoples of the Tikari Tribe" (4p5)

2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s):

- "Staple foods are maize, millet, yams and cocoyams." (7p158)
- (following are not eaten but are used as a source of income) rice, cotton, soy beans (7p53)

2.2 Main protein-lipid sources:

- Fish is a minor source of food (7p53)

2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?:

2.4 Food storage:

- Food is sometimes stored in the open spaces between timbers that are used to make the roofs of the huts. (7p121)

2.5 Sexual division of production:

- "Here men cut grass in preparing the fields, assist in harvesting and carrying home maize. Women are responsible for hoeing, planting, weeding, and for most of the harvesting." (7p27)

2.6 Land tenure:

2.7 Ceramics:

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:

2.9 Food taboos:

- "Women may not touch chicken or goats." (7p30)

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):

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):

4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce:

4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously:

- "According to a list of tax paying males which she quotes, 473 men in the village had 843 wives: 262 had one wife, 152 had 2-3 wives, 34 had 4-5 wives, 18 had 6-7 wives, 6 had 7-12 wives and the chief had 17." (7p46)

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

- "Schmidt notes that among the Bamessing (another name for Nsei) people the young men often go to the coast to earn money for the payment of their first wife." (7p46)

4.9 Inheritance patterns:

- "Although lineage membership, inheritance, and residence usually follow the paternal line, ties with the maternal kin are close." (7p32)

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”)
- 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?
- “...she cannot be compelled to marry a man she dislikes... she is entitled to find another fiance...” (7p121)
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?
- 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?
- 4.24 Joking relationships?
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations
- Entirely patrilineal (7)
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?
- “...for marriages other than those of the chief there is a special ceremony...” (7p121)
- 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?)
- “... exchange marriage was not only the basic form of marriage but the standard...” (7p69)
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)?
- “... among the Mbem-Mbaw group the parents of the man are asked to assist and negotiate the marriage.” (7p46)
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who:

Warfare/homicide

- 4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare:
- “According to official reports, 18 people had lost their lives with as many as 14 from Bafanji. Apart from the unprecedented displacement of human beings, huge amounts of property were looted and burnt including houses, the Bafanji Health Centre, the Cooperative Society Building, the Government Primary School and a Coffee Factory which belonged to one Ali Nekenbeng.” (5p419)
- 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:
- “Villages vary widely in size; in the majority, population ranges from 300 to 800.” (7p30)
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality):
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes):
- Chiefdoms control territory (5)
- 5.4 Post marital residence:
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense):
- “The involvement of Bali-Kumbat in numerous land disputes with bordering chiefdoms is less related to the strategic importance of its geographic allocation than to a great ambition for territorial aggrandizement.” (5p417)
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex):
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships:
- 5.8 Village and house organization:
- “In other Tikar areas, compounds are often much smaller, being inhabited only by the compound head, his wives, married, sons, and, more rarely, younger married brothers (with their wives and unmarried children)” (7p29).
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens’ houses):
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc:
- 5.12 Trade:
- “Local markets are held, either near a chief’s home or at a much-frequented crossroads, at regular intervals (every four, five, six or eight days) and wherever possible on different days, to allow produce to circulate from one market to another.” (7p139)
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

6.0 Time allocation to RCR:

6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine):

6.2 Stimulants:

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

- “Clifford lists four principal annual religious ceremonies. The most important of these is the *egu* festival, in commemoration of the ancestors. It is celebrated at the beginning of the yam harvest (i.e., usually July or August). So far as that *Ata* is concerned, this ceremony consists of the sacrifice of nine animals to the ancestral spirits of his nine immediate predecessors...” (7p89)

6.4 Other rituals:

6.5 Myths (Creation):

6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games):

- “... Demon Mabu among the Nsei (the Cameroons) which is represented as an anthropomorphic mask of wood dressed in feathers, carrying a large knife and with a trident in its hands.” (6p76)

6.7 Sex differences in RCR:

6.8 Missionary effect:

- 98% of the population is Christian (1)

6.9 RCR revival:

6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs:

- “...it should be noticed that it is the ancestors as a community rather than as individuals who are thought to watch over and guide the living.” (6p89)

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:

7.2 Piercings:

7.3 Haircut:

7.4 Scarification:

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

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment:

- “...the Nsei in the Cameroons use mask which they say represent the spirits of the dead and which are brought out immediately after a death for the mourning ceremony, and then again at the later feast of the dead, the second funeral celebration.” (6p80)

7.7 Sex differences in adornment:

7.8 Missionary effect:

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment:

- I read a blog post about a tourist who saw a few people of the Ndobbo tribe put on their masks and dance through the street for a little bit of money. (8)

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):

- “A woman is often sent to her natal home to bear her first child. At that and any subsequent her mother will try to be present;” “she may return to her own compound” (7p44) (7p63).
- “The birth of twins is considered particularly desirable. Delaroziere states that twins are sacred and they come under the chief’s special protection and he has a right to one of them.” (7p120)

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