

1. Description

- 1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family: Shona, Bantu Language
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): SNA
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): Zimbabwe, 20 degrees 0'S and 30 degrees 0'E
- 1.4 Brief history: Ruins (Great Zimbabwe) are to be derived from early Shona people, from 600 A.D. Several different types of language were used including Korekore, Zeseru, Manyika, Ndau, and Karanga. The Shona people settled in Zimbabwe most likely during the 1830's. The land of Zimbabwe is renowned for its rich stone sculptures. Shona also constructed large stone walls.
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: Schools were brought to the Shona through European Colonization; roughly 75% of Shona are at "ordinary level" or below (In Terms of Schooling). **Neighboring Peoples:** Ndebele, Tonga, Chikunda, Sena, Barwe, Tsonga, Venda. Political System is the extended family that live together in settlements. This is the centralized government of shona peoples.
- 1.6 Ecology (natural environment): Zimbabwe is on a very high plateau and is landlocked. Mostly grasslands cover the area. The Zambezi River runs along the Northern border.
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density
9 million people, families consisted of man and wife a range of children (2+). On average a village contains about 73 people, mostly consisting of an extended family.

2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): Maiz
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: Groundnuts, Cows (beef), Goat, Milk
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: Bow and Arrows, Spears, knives
- 2.4 Food storage: Salting, Smoking, drying
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: Women do domestic work and pottery and less strenuous agricultural tasks. Men hunt, do heavy agricultural work, raise cattle and iron work.
- 2.6 Land tenure: Land for the Shona is mostly used for agriculture and grazing. Many Europeans have come in to turn farmland into a search for gold, and to create mines for other precious metals/gems.
- 2.7 Ceramics: basins, bowls, vases, plates, cups
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:
- 2.9 Food taboos: Cows are considered taboo for women, so men do all of the herding and milking. It is discouraged that you eat different types of crops when they are out of season. If your last name is "cow" then you are discouraged from also eating that food. Children are discouraged from eating eggs.
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft? none

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): Female : 20-24

4.3 Completed family size (m and f):

4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f): A woman will Conceive every 2-3 years when first married. If the woman is not married, she will most likely have none to few children as non marital pregnancies are highly frowned upon.

4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): Male: 25-29 Women 20:24

4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce:

According to <http://www.measuredhs.com/Pubs/PDF/FR186/FR186.PDF> 56 percent of women ages 19-46 are currently married and 43 % of men, in the same age group are married. In this same age group however, 5% divorced, 3 Percent seperated, and 8 % widowed.

4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: A vast majority of common Shona marriages are polygonous; as of recently most are monogomous due to the cost of living and education. It is much harder to support polygony.

4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: Brides are purchased, usually with cows, goats, or more recently cash. Otherwise known as Rooru.

4.9 Inheritance patterns:

4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: The most common parent offspring troublesome relationships are determined from the sex of a child. Men are the head of the household and want their names to be carried on for generations. Shona men are often dissappointed with a female child. If a man has more than one wife, there is not much of a relationship at all. Sometimes the man will deny the child as well.

4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals: In 2005, The African Court decided to ban the legalization of Gay Marriages because it is against the traditions of Rooru (this is the common way for a marriage to be carried out).

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: "Overall, 25 percent of women reported that they have experienced sexual violence at some point

in their lives (Table 17.4). Twenty-eight percent of women age 20-39 reported experience with sexual violence. Women who are employed were more likely than unemployed women to report sexual violence experience: 30 percent for women who were employed for cash and 33 percent for women who were employed but did not receive payment in cash. In comparison, 20 percent of unemployed women reported ever experiencing sexual violence. Divorced and separated women reported the highest percentage of sexual violence (44 percent), married women reported 29 percent, widows reported 27 percent, and nevermarried women reported 10 percent."

<http://www.measuredhs.com/Pubs/PDF/FR186/FR186.PDF>

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

4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms? Women have almost no sexual freedom at all, and traditionally, the sexual activities are controlled. Young females are often examined before marriage for virginity.

4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring. Giving gifts or *Rooro* is how traditional marriages are

4.20 If mother dies, whose children are raised? If the mother passes, the child is most likely left with in-laws to be raised. Children can also be granted to other close relatives, usually not the father.

4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females with the relationship of .91, There are slightly more Shona Females than Males.

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? Kin respect is very important in the marriages of Shona people. A male will generally offer gifts to gain access to the woman he wants to be with. Most totems/tribes represent an extended family, so when a male begins his *Lobola* (gift giving). He must give a succession of gifts to different family members to earn their respect.

4.24 Joking relationships?

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

4.26 Incest avoidance rules

4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony? Yes, the marriage is a form of adulthood for males and females.

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

In most cases, the mother and father will both name the child, unless there is a conflict. A man sometimes denies the pregnancy and will neglect the family.

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

4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? Marriages are not arranged for the Shona, but the kin relationship between future husband and the bride's family is incredibly important. The family can easily deny the relationship. The *Lobola* also comes into effect here.

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? No Cannibalism

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: 73.2

5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): Stay in one place

- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): Elders, Chiefs, National President
- 5.4 Post marital residence: Women live with husband with their children as well as their parents and many times children of other relatives.
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): Within Zimbabwe borders, the Zimbabwe government has a military system with an Air Force and infantry
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): Elders have preference over those younger and men are more respected than women, who are supposed to be submissive.
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: Plentiful, usually within the same social, age and gender class
- 5.8 Village and house organization: Villages can have male Chiefs and Elders, and the home is run by the eldest man with the women of the household being submissive
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): Men's houses, they are in charge of most decision making, and are the owners of property.
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere? Depends on socioeconomic climate of the area. Many people sleep in beds, in the poorer areas some people sleep on raised cots and a few on the ground.
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: Set up based on gender and class standing with each village having its own set of customs and mini ruling agencies.
- 5.12 Trade:
- 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: Commonly, tobacco is smoked, and alcohol is consumed on a regular basis.
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): Upon death, a member of the same clan must bury the deceased. He would then recite the history of the clan and importance of the totem. For puberty, a male will be circumcised in public to declare his adolescence.
- 6.4 Other rituals: After death, to make sure the spirit is making animals happy, they will pour beer on a bull's head, if the bull shakes his head, then the family then realizes that the spirit is good.
- 6.5 Myths (Creation):
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games):
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR:
- 6.8 Missionary effect: through colonization, Christianity has spread throughout the Shona (missionaries) as well as Muslim. These are the two main religions in Zimbabwe
- 6.9 RCR revival:
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: After death, the Shona people believe that a spirit is homeless. This spirit will wander the lands, and after a year of his/her death, the family will welcome the spirit back, allowing them to become a family spirit.
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy?

6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.)
The main religion is Christianity, however peoples belonging to the same clan or group, use a set of totems.

7. Adornment

7.1 Body paint: the Shona people use body paint during rites of passage, dances, and religious ceremonies.

7.2 Piercings: ears, other facial piercings for special ceremonies

7.3 Haircut: either close cropped for men and women, or long braids.

7.4 Scarification: none

7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.): large beads around necks, ear piercings, and facial piercings

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: Most adornments such as beads, body paint, and piercings are reserved for special rituals such as dancing for the ancestors, marriage, and rites of passage like when boy become men.

7.7 Sex differences in adornment: Women usually only adorn themselves with beads and ear rings, while men will wear other adornments more often in special ceremonies, especially elders.

7.8 Missionary effect: missionaries have given the people a more westernized look.

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment: the adornments are used in traditional ceremonies that date back centuries before colonization took place

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

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