

1. Description

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

Zaramo, Dzalamo, Kizaramo, Myagatwa, Saramo, Zalamo, Zaramu

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

zai

1.3 Location (latitude/longitude):

-7.00/39.00

1.4 Brief history:

The “Zaramo originated from the Luguru” Tribe which used to exist in the mountains but came down the valley floor.

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

In 1875 roamed freely across the lands of “sultan of Zanzibar”, even though he was the official government in the area with tax collection, etc... The Zaramo were allowed to freely roam and do as they pleased. This was probably due to the fact that the Zaramo had a “large fighting force of 4,000 to 5,000 men.”

1.6 Ecology (natural environment):

Their natural habitat could be described as plains/flat ground along the Ruvu River Valley.

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

As of 2000 the total size was 656,730.

2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s):

The majority of their food comes from farming/agriculture as opposed to hunting. They also harvest a large amount of oranges, mangos, cashew nut trees, rice tobacco, maize, beans, sweet potatoes, pineapples, jackfruits, plantains, limes, kapok, mangoes, sugarcane, cassava, curry spices, eggplants, and cucumbers, fruits/vegetable/crops.

2.2 Main protein-lipid sources:

No cattle, but have been known to raise sheep, goats, and chickens.

2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?:

2.4 Food storage:

2.5 Sexual division of production:

2.6 Land tenure:

2.7 Ceramics:

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:

2.9 Food taboos:

“the Zaramo do not observe common [but there are individual family taboos] prohibitions or taboos”

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: High,

“For several reasons, marriages are not [long] lasting”

4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously:

"the residence of a wife in a polygamous household." The ratio of 1 wife households is 2:1 approximately.

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

Yes, the male pays a dowry.

4.9 Inheritance patterns:

“The Zaramo lineage system is based on two principles. On the one hand, there is biological descent, following the line of the mother, and, on the other hand, there is spiritual descent, following the line of the father.”

4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict:

There is a major responsibility of the mother to raise the child. “The mother is expected to breast-feed her child for at least two years, and she is supposed to abstain from sexual intercourse for six months after the birth of the child.” The children are expected to stay with the mother for a long time after birth, especially girls. This is supposed to help the children pick up information about the world and learn the customs and ways of the Zaramo.

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) There was a preference to cross cousins but today this model has faded away.

4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?

4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring

4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?: It’s the responsibility for any family to care all their related family members, even the distant ones. This rule also applies in the case of divorce.

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

4.26 Incest avoidance rules

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?

The children get their name from the fathers side but belong to the mothers tribe.

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)?

4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who:

Warfare/homicide

Note there is no specific reference to some of the below data. But the Zaramo seem to keep to themselves, especially today. But I gather they would defend themselves if attacked and they used to be quite strong militarily but today seem to be peace full and adapting into modern society somewhat with their faith in Islam and such.

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

4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death:N/A

4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: None

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

Overall good relations with their neighbors especially those of Muslim decent/association and this.

4.18 Cannibalism? No reference to this.

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size:

Group size is 800 on average with an even distribution of females and males(Note: these figure are for geographical areas, not a town). They usually live near water (water determines where they live due to its scarcity) in small groups and their homes are made from local materials. For example: The roof is usually made of grasses or coconut leaves coated with mud. And the framework is made up of wooden poles. However the more well to do have concrete floors and tin siding, but keep with the tribal traditions.

5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality):

no seasonal migration

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

There are Chiefs and Clans. But they aren't really organized together, they're more of a loose association of tribes, with the majority of authority acting on an individual clan bases.

5.4 Post marital residence: Female Tribe

5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense):

They don't have aggressively defended borders, though they do collect tax from trade caravans.

5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex):

5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships: none

5.8 Village and house organization:

There is both Male and Female head of households with a male advantage of roughly 6:1. So it's basically a male lead household but females are forbidden from leading a family.

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:

Organized mainly by groups of extended families.

5.12 Trade: they selling of slaves to Arab and Swahili traders and also "They also traded in ivory, salt, fish, gum copal, and rhinoceros hides."

5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?

There isn't a real category/position of authority within Zaramo society, but there is usually a elder with authority over a family usually a male. This person doesn't have a omnipotent power but has the responsibility of calling family meetings and such. This person is in charge of organizing family rituals and such. With this said other family members also appear to hold this position of power as well.

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

6.0 Time allocation to RCR: 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine):

Shift from tribal patterns/beliefs to adaptation/mixture of the Muslim religion.

6.2 Stimulants:

Stimulants are used to put Zaramo into trances.

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

The boys used to be put through "*kukula*" to teach them about the culture, history, and customs of the clan, this allowed the boys to be initialized into the clan, but this practice has since merged with the Muslim "jando". The biggest passage ritual is for the girls occur at menstruation; this marks a girl's entrance into womanhood.

6.4 Other rituals:

There are Pilgrimages to honor the spirit “Kolelo”.

The Zaramo often use their medicine to put people into trances for various reasons. Trances in this case refer to a very focused danced, these trances are usually performed at night, by men or women, but there are different rituals per different sex, and one reason/example that was given was to perform an exorcism.

Women also used travel to a pool in the Ulgurun Mounts to bath in a pool to increase their chances of success in childbirth.

6.5 Myths (Creation):

6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games):

6.7 Sex differences in RCR:

6.8 Missionary effect:

There is a noted Muslim influence on the Zaramo, which has increased in time and today most of the tribe are Muslims, but this has been a recent development. The switch from their traditional practice to Muslim was easy and peaceful because they're practices are pretty much the same. With that the effect of Christian missionaries has been limited.

6.9 RCR revival:

6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs:

6.11 Taboo of naming dead people:

“the Zaramo do not observe common [there are family taboos but unified] prohibitions or taboos”

6.12 Is there teknonymy?

Yes, the children are usually named after their mother's parents.

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

Not much is known about the Zaramo's religious/magic beliefs but “Despite changes in their belief system, the Zaramo basically affirm the powers of sorcerers and spirits and thus continue to consult the mganga.”

7. Adornment

7.1 Body paint:

The color scheme of “white-black-red” is associated with the “organic theme which is central in the traditional rites.

Within this theme there are the origins of life, along with the origin of each human being. ”

7.2 Piercings:

no reference most emphasis is on body paint

7.3 Haircut:

Men shave head after reaching manhood and females shave body hair after reaching woman hood.

7.4 Scarification: None/No reference

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

no reference to feathers or lip plates, beads

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment:

see 7.3

7.7 Sex differences in adornment:

see 7.3

7.8 Missionary effect:

no effect/the Muslim influence was adopted in but didn't change the existing beliefs

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment:

shaving of hair (head and body), use of body paint.

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):

9.1 The Zaramo have been reluctant to pick up Christianity this is probably due to their history and living in a Muslim region all of their lives but the interesting thing is that "The Christian minority in an overwhelmingly Muslim community does not encounter enthusiastic hospitality, but Zaramo Muslims and Christians live and work together in relative peace." Which one would not expect to the current Muslim/Christian hostilities in the world past and tensions of today.

Numbered references

1. <http://www.ethnologue.com/>
2. <http://www.everyculture.com>
3. <http://swepub.kb.se/bib/swepub:oai:DiVA.org:nai-654?tab2=abs&language=en>