

FIELD ASSIGNMENT #4

1. Name of the interviewee (does it have a special meaning in the ethnic group) the name of the interviewee is Joyce Nyokabi and she was named after her grandmother. This is very common in African culture and specifically among the kikuyus and the maasais.the name has no specific meaning.
2. What is her ethnic background? She is a kikuyu and a percentage of maasai. This is because the father is a kikuyu and the mother is a maasai.she is brought up within the kikuyu culture to a point that you cannot know whether her mother is a maasai until she tells you. She now works in Kilifi county within the coastal region of Kenya.
3. What language does she speak fluently? She can speak in kikuyu, Swahili and English fluently
4. What language(s) does she understand although she does not speak that language well. Maasai language.
5. What is the majority ethnic /tribal group in your church? She attends an ACK church in watamu where the Giriamas are the majority with minorities of kikuyu, Kamba and Luos.
6. In the church you attend have you ever been made to feel uncomfortable in any way because of your tribe? (give specific examples) The Giriama people are very welcoming as it is the custom of the coastal area of Kenya. Despite all that the language becomes a weak link because they love their language that they speak it without minding who is with them. I remember a time as we were sharing with a giriama sister, her friend came and they started to speak in their mother tongue. This made me feel unwelcome was very disappointing. Another instance is, one time as the preacher was teaching he spoke a for almost two minutes in their language and people were laughing so I was left wondering what has he said.
7. What cultural difficulties did she face in joining the church e.g. in food, gestures, use of time or communication either verbal or non-verbal. I spent some weeks before fully joining the church because of firstly the language barrier and the

way they speak with much gestures. To it seemed that they are very disrespectful and proud only later to learn is their culture. Secondly they never keep time but are very good in socializing not minding time. I struggled in this because as a carrier lady it never worked for good until I chose the service to be attending.

8. Does the church welcome people of all ethnic backgrounds? Culturally the giriamas love and welcome visitors. The first day I was introduced is as if everything stopped to welcome me and it happens that way. They welcome all tribes and nationalities until one cannot miss to come again.
9. Given a chance, in what ways could you improve in making all people comfortable in the church? Given a chance I would improve on the time strictness. This will help the other nationalities and ethnic groups to feel comfortable. I would also introduce a service where there is a translator from English to Swahili. This will make the English speakers to feel comfortable and also enjoy fellowship with other native Swahili speakers.

I thank God for this interview that has made me to realize that a culture of friendliness makes one feel comfortable. Secondly communication is a very sensitive issue especially when there are different tribes. It's good to speak our language when all of us can understand. Thirdly have learnt the importance of being accommodative to other cultures. Every culture has some things I may lack and others I may not lack and so being accommodative is important. Fourthly when one celebrates a culture of another tribe they are happy and take him or her as part of them. This include: - the food they eat, learning abit of their language and joining them in their work.

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