

THE IMPACT OF CULTURE ON WOMEN DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Culture refers to people's way of life and it includes material culture like food and clothes and immaterial cultures like Taboos and norms. Kenya is not a homogenous country ethnically wise. The make-up of Kenyans is primarily that of 13 ethnic groups with an additional 27 smaller groups. The majority of Kenyans belong to 'Bantu' tribes such as the Kikuyu, Luhya and Kamba. There are also the 'Nilotic' tribes such as the Luo, Kalenjin, Maasai and Turkana. The 'Hamitic' people include the Turkana, Rendille and Samburu. Around 13% of the populations are of non-African descent, i.e. Indian, Arab and European. The Kenyan Constitution guarantees freedom of religion. Around half the population is Christians, 10% Muslim and there are small Hindu and Sikh minorities. The balance of the population follows traditional African, often animist, beliefs. Christians tend to be concentrated in the west and central sections of the country while Muslims cluster in the eastern coastal regions. Most Kenyans interweave native beliefs into a traditional religion.