NANDI CULTURAL PRACTICES AND VALUES

Based on what my grandmother has taught me over the years of visiting her during the holidays, all celebrations are known as ‘tumndo’. This essay will discuss the rites of passage. First, birth, in our clan culture, childbirth is a significant event celebrated with close family members visiting the mother and child a few days after discharge from the hospital. The child is named according to season, event, time or situation. Just like my name ‘Jerono’ means born when the sheep and goats are going back to the shade in the evening. When a son is born, the father knows he has an heir, when a daughter is born, she becomes pride of the father. Additionally, the mother undergoes a period of postpartum care and confinement, during which she receives special foods and attention from her family.

During the initiation stage the boys undergo a confinement stage. It marks a pivotal stage in Nandi culture, as it signifies the transition from childhood to adulthood. For boys, the initiation into manhood typically involves circumcision, which is performed in a sacred ceremony attended by male elders and relatives. This rite of passage is seen as a test of courage and endurance, and it serves to strengthen bonds between the initiates and their community. This stage is started off at the clan area of choosing where all the boys around are gathered and taken into the forest to be taught men values. They stay there for a month or more no technology just cow skin as clothes and a leader to camp with them during this time. After the one month stay in the forest the mothers of the men prepare a feast and ceremony to celebrate and welcome them into the new world as men.

For women, initiation stage is commenced with the daughters learning domestic chores and all other thing from their mother. Taught to respect men and taught how to dress in front of the men.

Marriage is a significant institution in Nandi culture, marked by elaborate ceremonies and rituals that reflect the importance of family and community ties. The process of marriage begins with negotiations between the families of the bride and groom, during which bride wealth is agreed upon. Mostly marked with 2 comes and 4 goats. After this a pre wedding is done that is recognized as the traditional marriage. The couple can then do another wedding church or any other that all friends can attend or just have an AG officiate the wedding. The pre wedding is mostly for relatives and family members and the in laws. The couple gets presents used to start off their lives. In the case where a child is born out of wedlock the father is supposed to pay the mother of the child as part of the bride wealth.

Death is the last passage, where life of the dead is celebrated and mourned at the same time. When the person who dies has lived past 90 years, the life is celebrated he or she will have witnessed more than 4 generations meaning there life is a celebration. Burials are mostly attended by relatives and villagers. Eulogy is read, people gather to throw sand and prayers are made on behalf of the dead.