

Field Work Report

A Comprehensive Overview of Field Activities and Learnings

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1 Introduction

This report of the field work conducted by; Davison G Nasari, the student of **The Open University Of Tanzania**, the aim of this report document is to outlining daily activities, supervisor feedback, recordings, challenges, and lessons learned. It provides the comprehensive summary for future reference and improvement of field programs.

2 Daily Activity Report (Diary)

The following table summarizes the daily activities conducted during the field work.

Date	Activity	Notes
06/05/2025	Oral interview with Local aged Man With long term history of Meru Land Since he knows even the Names of the first Missionary who invaded the Meru land especially Engarenanyuki. References (Audio volume 1, Chimbuko La Wameru(VARWA), Kuchomwa kwa Ngarenanyuki).	Discussed Culture practices of Meru People, in the topic of; All the customary rituals regarding engagement, The Origin of Wameru(VARWA), The Customary rituals regarding Marriage.
06/05/2025	i) Oral interview with retired Secretary of Coucil of Customs And Traditions of Meru, Baraza La Jadi na Mila Za Wameru(JMW). Mr. LUKA KALEB URASSA. ii) Oral interview with Highest Mbise Clan (Mshili Mkuu wa Ukoo wa Mbise). Mzee Silas Mbise).	- Discussed about All Traditions and Customs of Wameru (Varwa).
07/05/2025	i) Interview with The Highest Ranking Tradition and Customs (Mshili Mkuu Wa Jadi na Mila za Wameru JMW) of Varwa(Wameru)	- Discussed about All Traditions and Customs of Meru.
08/05/2025	i) Interview with local elders	Discussed about Traditional Dancers, such wedding ceremonies dances, Circumcision

		- dances and dances during harvesting.
09/05/2025	i) Interview with retired secretary of Rika of Kilovio.	- Discussed about customary rituals consigning Defense and Security of Meru Wealth by Youth (Rika) in the Power.
10/05/2025	i) Observing Tradition Medicine Used by Meru Societies.	- Learning about Kinds of grass species used by Meru societies at (NSANDOSANDO GROUP).
11/05/2025	i) Interview with local Elder. ii) Interview with community leader who is the highest leader of Issangya Clan, one of the clan out of 26 Meru clans.	- Discussed about the Origin of the name Varwa means Wameru. - Discussed about all customary rituals of Meru Culture.
12/05/2025	i) Observation Meru tradition performance at Nringaringei The Council Culture of Wameru.	- Watched and recording the performance.
15/05/2025	i) Observation the Utensils used by Meru people before the invasion of Missionaries and the Globalization.	- Recorded video - Noted the names and the use of one after another at Nkoarisambu (NSANDOSANDO GROUP).
16/05/2025	i) Visited local clan leader of Kaaya Clan. ii) Interview with Mbise Clan leader(MSHILI MKUU WA UKOO WA MBISE)	- Discussed about the authorities of Clan Leaders. - Discussed on how to get Tradition leaders at Meru.
17/05/2025	i) Visited the highest leader of Wameru(Mshili Mkubwa wa Jadi na Mila za Wameru. Wilison Vava Mbise)	- Observing Tradition stick and others items provided to Washili when sown in.
22/05/2025	i) Visiting the late Secretary of Kilovio.	- Explanation and more Clarification on how to

			Organize Traditional Ceremonies.
24/05/2025	i)	Observation of local festival.	- Noted traditional dances and costumes.
25/05/2025	i)	Observation of the meaning of three trees called Mringaringa at Council of Culture of Wameru.	- Discussed the meaning and the work of those trees.
27/05/2025	i)	Interview with community leader	- Noted traditional weapons used by youth (Vasero).
29/05/2025	i)	Observations of local and tradition food of Meru.	- Noted tradition food of Meru.
30/05/2025	i)	Interview with local Tradition leader	- Listened the history of Engarenanyuki war between Meru people and the Missionaries.
02/06/2025	i)	Observing of local tradition performance	- Noted traditional dances and costumes at Nringaringei.
03/06/2025	i)	Observing of tradition performance at Culture and Arts Center (CAC) at Makumira University.	- Noted traditional dances and costumes.
	ii)	Observation of place where Kaaya Clan used to do Rituals. At Lake Duluti.	

3 Supervisor's Brief Report

Supervisors Name: Clementina Lazaro Mbise

Title/Position: DSCAO MERU DC

Summary: The student performed well, working hard and learnt all the Cultural and Traditions Aspect.

4 Recordings and Notes

Below is a list of recordings made during the field work:

- **Title:** Interview with Elder Zakaria Meenda Mbise
- **Date:** 06/05/2025
- **Description:** Discussion on tradition wedding Ceremony
- **Notes:** Elder Zakaria emphasized to respect or to honor our Meru Culture

- **Title:** Interview with Elder **Zakaria Meenda Mbise**
- **Date:** 06/05/2025
- **Description:** Discussion about all traditions and customs of Meru people Wameru.
- **Notes:** Elder Zakaria emphasized to respect or to honor our Meru Culture.

- **Title:** Interview with the Community leader (**MSHILI MKUBWA WA JADI NA MILA ZA WAMERU (JMW)**). **Wilson Vava Mbise**.
- **Date:** 07/05/2025
- **Description:** Discussed about All Traditions and Customs of Meru.
- **Notes:** Leader Wilson Vava Make a will to community/tradition leaders to do justice because he Said “As you sow, so shall you reap” (Wilson Vava Mbise). Video. Volume..Ushauri kutoka kwa Mshili Mkuu Wa Jadi na Mila za Wameru, that they should do Justice on leading others.

- **Title:** Interview with Mbise clan leader. **Elder Silas Mbise**.
- **Date:** 07/05/2025
- **Description:** Discussed about Traditional Dancers, such wedding ceremonies dances, Circumcision and Tradition Grinding Machine(Soo and Isewe).
- **Notes:** Elder Silas Mbise Make a will to Churches and priests to stop teaching their followers that all Tradition aspects are bad, and that is one of challenges we are facing.”

- **Title:** Interview with Elder Paulo Jaji Nnko (Lembaiye)
- **Date:** 08/05/2025
- **Description:** Discussed about Traditional Dancers, such wedding ceremonies dances, Circumcision dances, and dances during harvesting.
- **Notes:** Elders Lembaiye Wishes the present generation to honor our Meru Culture.

- **Title:** Interview with retired secretary of Kilovio
- **Date:** 09/05/2025
- **Description:** Discussed about preparation of Tradition Ceremonies especially when one rika is retiring.
- **Notes:** Mr Sirel Jaji Nnko insisted on unity for the rika in power.

- **Title:** Observing Tradition medicine used by Meru people under the explanation from Mama **Ndeningwambora Kitomary**.
- **Date:** 10/05/2025
- **Description:** Learning kinds of Medicine species found in Meru and direction on how to use them.
- **Notes:** Mama Ndeningwambora insisted on use of tradition medicines and cure because their free from chemicals.

- **Title:** Interview with local Elder
- **Date:** 11/05/2025
- **Description:** Discussed about customary rituals during circumsion of boys.
- **Notes:** Elder Zakaria Mbise We should value this custom because it help to sharpen the youth.

5 **Suggestions for Future Improvements**

The following suggestions could enhance future field work

- Provide better equipment for recording
- Enough time for research i.e 3 months
- Enough fund
- Improve pre-field training on local customs

6 **Challenges Faced and Solutions**

6.1 **Access to the Community**

Challenge: No Challenge

Solution:

6.2 **Cooperation from the Community**

Challenge: Asked for the payment

Solution: I used my Knowledge to seduce them

6.3 **Access to Cultural Information**

Challenge: No challenge

Solution:

6.4 **Food**

Challenge: No Challenge

Solution:

6.5 **Equipment**

Challenge: No

Solution: No

6.6 **Other**

Challenge: Limited time

Solution: Worked with community leader and organized another time.

7. **Lessons Learned**

- Importance of Culture heritage in the society
- The importance of collaboration in the society
- The importance of preserving culture aspect
- How to conquer challenges

8. Conclusion

This report highlights the activities, challenges, and lessons from the field work. The experience has been invaluable in building practical skills and understanding community dynamics.

9. Recommendations

For the future field students:

1. Ensure training on tradition medicine
2. Provide enough time for the research to be conducted
3. Provide standard equipment.

10. Appendices