

Changes in livelihoods among the San living in settlement areas in Botswana

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- Research background

This research investigates the people called the San, Basarwa or Bushmen, who live in Botswana. They have been studied as hunter-gatherers by Japanese anthropologists since the 1960's. Early researchers were particularly interested in the traditional methods of subsistence among the San, Hunter-gathering. Following Government enforced relocation and the founding of settlement areas for remote area dwellers (RADs; most of whom were San), substantial research has been conducted regarding social changes among the San that have taken place.

- Research purpose and aim

This research aims to reveal how the lifestyles of the San have changed in the 15 years since relocation. I visited Kx'oensakene, which has been the main anthropological fieldwork location for Japanese researchers. I also endeavored to find another settlement area against which Kx'oensakene could be compared.



Picture1. Food distribution by the government

- Results and achievements of this fieldwork

In Kx'oensakene, I was able to observe San people participating in wage labor through the drought relief program, and through piece jobs among local people such as carrying water or repairing houses. In addition, I interviewed two San informants who had once lived in city. One had finished high school, and worked as a guide in the tourist industry; the other had finished college and had a degree in computer science. I chose a settlement, Kacgae, as a new fieldwork location. With



Picture2. Bush walk tour for tourists

its smaller number of residents compared with Kx'oensakene, it fits my aim; namely, to observe the everyday lives of residents in another settlement.

- Impact and implications for future research

I lived in the area at the end of the dry season; Thus plants were few, farming was almost impossible. And food plants were difficult to gather too. At that time, people were highly



Picture3. Tavern in Kacgae

dependent on the food distributed by the government. Consequently, I was unable to fully observe how people maintained their everyday livelihoods through the seasons. On the other hand, I made contact with people who had experienced working in the city. I now plan to widen this investigation to include city residents, and to focus this research on the interpersonal relationships between the settlement and the city.



Picture4. Settlement landscape, Kacgae