



Kupururudzira muroora songs in Muzvezve

**Bride welcoming ceremony or relegation of
women to the subaltern?**

by Wonder Maguraushe and Treda Mukuhlani

The institution of marriage is a place where Shona women have often suffered oppression instead of fulfilment. Women have lamented Shona cultural practices that are not cognisant of human rights despite Zimbabwe being a signatory to the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development. Practices which are harmful to women and tantamount to gender inequality need to be discontinued in Shona culture. We notice that the impact of patriarchy and the vulnerability of females have been perpetuated in Shona culture through the performance of traditional bride welcoming ceremony songs.

Folk songs are an important element of Shona culture in terms of women's construction of their personal identities. *Kupururudzira muroora* (traditional bride welcoming ceremony) songs are part of