



Ibhor Dance of The Basarwa People

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INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the *Ibhor* music and dance of the *Basarwa* people. *Basarwa* people are one of the ethnic groups whose music is performed on the periphery of the country. The chapter explores this dance of the *Basarwa* people who relocated from across the border in Botswana to *Makhulela* area in Plumtree District of Matabeleland South Province in Zimbabwe. The researchers used qualitative methods to gather data from the culture custodians in order to come up with thick descriptions and analysis of the music and dance. The chapter brings the *Basarwa* people's music and dance to the world so that it is appreciated and preserved for future reference. It further explicates the *Ibhor* dance of the *Basarwa* people with the aim of bringing it to the attention of the world. The also reviews works by some scholars who concur that the *Basarwa* people's music has long faced marginalisation. We are against this concept of exclusion and chronicle this dance so that more dancers participate in it.

Given that some of the participants in this study were illiterate, the oral tradition was preferred during data collection. It was again advantageous to get information through non-verbal communication because the respondents could also use gestures to stress points. Considering that the informants speak a different language from that spoken by the researchers, the theory of orality played a major role in getting the researchers to understand the San. The researchers also used philosophic sagacity to scrutinize the lives of the *Basarwa* people and their music. Some of the songs are transcribed and analysed. This theory was chosen because it is applicable to this research in that it calls for the researcher to speak with the elders of the San people who have rich information about a technique that explains phenomena.

Ethnographic research methods were used in order to observe, interview and record processes as they happened naturally in the field; the researchers spent a fair amount of time at the *Makhulela* site. The objective was to