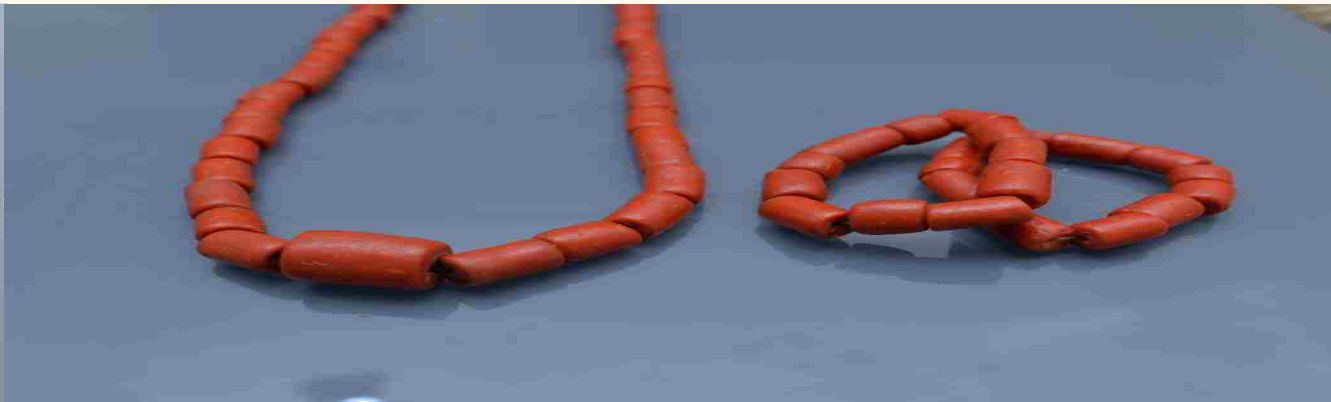


NAME - EMILY OJEANOR

CORAL BEADS

PRESENTATION



INTRODUCTION

Coral beads are a type of jewelry or a regalia that is made from the coral's carbonate secretions. Coral beads is synonymous to indigenes of Edo State. The Edo people of Nigeria are well known for their rich and elaborate cultural heritage all across Africa. Edo is located in the southern part of Nigeria. Coral beads are highly valued in the Edo culture; they are used as decoration at weddings and funerals and they also represent how important a person is. Edo chiefs would wear necklaces of coral beads and the Oba which is the king would wear necklaces, collars and crowns made from them.





THE ORIGIN OF CORAL BEADS

1 There are different stories surrounding the origin of the Edo red coral beads, this coral beads however can be traced back to the 1400s A.D., according to some oral legends. Oba Ewuae of the Benin Kingdom recounted that the beads were supposedly taken from the 'goddess of the sea' at Ughoton (Gwatto) and smuggled into Benin. However, another legend claim that in the 16th century, the Portuguese brought coral beads into Benin city through trade.

3



HOW ARE CORAL BEADS MADE

1. Coral are materials formed from natural organic sediments. These are remains from living and non-living organism. These remains settle at the deep part of sea and over the years they solidify or harden or become cemented together to form sedimentary rocks. These materials are mined from the oceans and sharpened and polished into jewelry. Precious coral grows in the bush-like formation in the Mediterranean Sea and Sea of Japan. These coral are turned into beads which serve as body adornment worn by men and women among the Edo people



SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE OF CORAL BEADS

01

IT SIGNIFIES RANK AND STATUS

Different degree and variety of coral beads adorned by the Edo people are used to signify rank and status. In the Benin Kingdom, the Oba wear heavily beaded coral regalia such as beaded crown, beaded necklace, anklets, wrist and beaded shoes, indicating his rank as the king while his chiefs also wear coral beads though not as heavy as the Oba which is usually around the neck and waist. This coral beads usually weigh very heavily on the Oba's head, It is constantly being removed by a guard or attendant.



IT SIGNIFIES FEMININE BEAUTY DURING TRADITIONAL WEDDINGS

02.

The importance of Coral beads known as “ivie” on an Edo bride cannot be over emphasized as they have a very strong presence in traditional marriages in Edo state. This is evident, for example, in the beautifully elaborate attire of the Edo bride. It forms a crown-like appearance known as Okuku



IT SIGNIFIES RISE TO PROMINENCE, POWER AND DOMINANCE

03.

Coral beads holds a deep meaning, it is used as a traditional Medium To convey a Powerful message of freedom of Expression, power, and dominance. The coral beads are used to signify rise to prominence, so when the Oba sends coral beads to a person that individual is being made a chief and refusing these corals beads is viewed as an unpardonable sin which will cause one to be the enemy of the Oba. These chiefs which are subordinates of the Oba crowned chiefs with these beads on their heads.



*IT SIGNIFIES
ROYALTY AUTHORITY,
WEALTH AND
PRESTIGE*

04

Coral beads are expensive jewelries hence worn by the Edo people to showcase wealth and prestige. Different coral beads are adorned by the Oba of Benin, his wives, children are used to showcase royalty, authority, wealth and prestige. Coral beads usually worn by chiefs in Benin kingdom indicates authority and honour. One can say that coral beads are more valued than gold.



THE RELEVANCE OF CORAL BEADS TO SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

- Cultural Competence – Social workers who work with clients from cultures that place a high value on coral beads, this knowledge about coral beads can help them to better connect with their clients and understand their respective values and heritage
- Promoting cultural preservation – Social workers who work with indigenous or traditional communities may be involved in efforts to promote cultural preservation. Coral beads can be used to celebrate cultural traditions and promote a sense of pride in cultural identity
- Supporting economic development – Coral beads may be used as a source of income or economic development. For example artisans who create coral beads may be supported through social enterprise initiative and other economic development strategies. Social workers may be involved in these initiatives, by helping to promote sustainable livelihoods and economic growth.



SOME APPLICABLE THEORIES

- Strength-Based Theory – This theory emphasizes the importance of focusing on the strengths and resources of clients, including their cultural values and beliefs.
- Ecological Systems Theory – This theory recognizes that individuals are part of larger social systems, such as families, communities and cultures that influence their development and behaviour. Social workers who use an ecological systems approach can better understand how cultural values and beliefs influence their clients
- Intersectionality Theory – This theory recognizes that individuals have multiple identities, such as race, gender, culture that influence their experiences.
- Cultural Competence Theory – This theory emphasizes the need for social workers to have deep understanding of the cultural values and beliefs of their clients.



CONCLUSION

Edo coral beads are an important part of the Nigerian culture and history and they are a beautiful and unique accessory that has gained popularity in modern fashion. Understanding the cultural, economic and symbolic significance of coral beads can be an asset to social workers who are working with diverse communities and clients.





THANK YOU

