

THE STATE OF KETE DEVELOPMENT IN THE VOLTA REGION

Citation: Frimpong, C., Opoku, J., & Seidu, R. K. (2020). The state of Kete development in the Volta Region. *Textile: The journal of Cloth and Culture*, 18(4), 430-450.

Abstract

Kente has gained considerable prestige in terms of recognition among all African textiles. Amidst its popularity, *kente* or *kete* cloth has experienced several transitions from its initial form through to its current state. The study presents an account on the developmental phases of Ewe *kete* cloth in the Volta region of Ghana. The study which was carried out in Agotime-Kpetoe and Agbozume in the Volta region employed purposive sampling to identify a group of weavers, elders, and the chief of Agotime. Interviews and observation were used as tools in collecting data on various aspects of the study. Analyzed data revealed that *kete* development has encountered some historical influences as a result of migration from other communities. There has also been a shift in design trends from traditional ideologies to customer-centered concepts and preferences, and the consequence of the occurrence of foreign materials in the production of the *kete* cloth. This study recommends ways of preserving Ewe *kete* weaving culture and the establishment of regulatory bodies to check the quality standards of *kete* products.

Keywords: kete; development; transitions; maintenance; preservation