

## **A Phenomenology Study Of The Nature And Characteristics Of Chieftaincy Succession Conflict: The Case Of The Akuapem Traditional Area Of Ghana**

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### **Abstract**

The study focused on the nature and characteristics of the chieftaincy succession conflict in the Akuapem Traditional Area of Ghana. This study was anchored on an interpretivist philosophical viewpoint. Methodologically, the study employed a qualitative approach with a phenomenology research design. Thirty-four (34) adults who have lived in the area for the past five years participated in the study. They included members of the traditional council, the Akuapem North Municipal Assembly, the royal gates to the paramountcy and others within the community. Participants were selected using extreme case, critical case and convenience sampling techniques. Data were collected with the use of interview guide, focus-group discussion and observation protocols. The data collected were analysed thematically in line with the research questions and emerged patterns from the dataset. The study found out that the dynamics of the conflict revolved around the nature and frames. The findings showed multiple causes that resulted in the exacerbation of the conflict. A major conclusion drawn from the study was that the chieftaincy institution in Akuapem is hurred with conflict which has complex dynamics and thus, has had multiple implications on the stability and development of the society. It is therefore recommended that all stakeholders to the installation are duly left to perform their duties without any intrusion from external parties or outsiders. Moreover, the grievances of these stakeholders should be addressed to ensure smooth running of the processes. This can be ensured by the traditional council of the area.

**Keywords:** Akwapem Traditional Area, Chieftaincy, Conflict, Ghana, Phenomenology, Succession