



Edina Susan Farai NYEMBA

Home Country: Zimbabwe

Degree: PhD in Information Systems

Expertise: Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

Research Focus: ICT Solution for Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Host University: University of Cape Town, South Africa

Fellowship Awarded: 2016

Edina Susan Farai Nyemba was born and spent much of her childhood in Nyanga, a small town in a rural area of Zimbabwe. She is the ninth child in a family of ten children, and her mother, who was deprived of education herself, worked hard as a peasant farmer to supplement the income of her husband – a temporary primary school teacher – to ensure the children could attend school. Edina attended secondary school in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, where she discovered computers for the first time and decided to pursue a career in a related area.

After graduating from high school, Edina joined Mutare Polytechnic College, Zimbabwe, where she obtained a Diploma in Computer Science. The course included an internship in the information and communications technology (ICT) department of Africa University, Zimbabwe, where she was subsequently employed while she completed her diploma studying part-time. Following this, Edina enrolled with the Women's University in Africa, Zimbabwe, to study towards a BSc in Information Systems, which she gained in 2006. She subsequently completed an MSc in Information Systems at the University of Cape Town in 2012.

Edina's PhD research focuses on finding a context-centric ICT solution to improve the delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene services to rural communities in developing nations such as Zimbabwe. She believes that by actively involving members of the local community in her research, they will learn how to find fit-for-purpose ICT solutions that can be used more efficiently and effectively.

After gaining her PhD, Edina plans to return to an academic position in her home country, where most university ICT departments are run by men. She looks forward to passing on her expertise to others, in particular women, and hopes to become a professor in ICT.