



Ebiteme Joy BOTU

Home Country: Nigeria

Degree: PhD in Computing and Mathematical Sciences

Expertise: Information Systems, Databases, Digital Maps

Research Focus: Pedestrian Movement in Urban Environments

Host University: University of Greenwich, London, United Kingdom

Fellowship Awarded: 2015

Ebiteme Botu was born and grew up in the city of Warri, Delta State, Nigeria. Whilst at secondary school in Nigeria, students who failed mathematics had to repeat the class they were in. At first, avoiding repeating a class was Ebiteme's primary motivation to work hard at the subject; however, she soon found that she enjoyed the challenges and intriguing mathematical solutions and decided to pursue an academic career in mathematics.

Ebiteme studied at Delta State University in Abraka, located around 50 km from Warri, where she obtained a BSc in Industrial Mathematics. During her mandatory year with the Nigerian Youth Service Corps (NYSC) after graduation, she taught mathematics at a secondary school in the north of the country. Following this she undertook training in office software and database systems, and was able to use these skills in a variety of jobs around Warri. In 2011, Ebiteme enrolled at the School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences at the University of Greenwich in London, and the following year gained an MSc in Information Systems Management.

The PhD research continues Ebiteme's interest in computing and mathematical sciences, and her work studies pedestrians' use of navigation systems in unfamiliar urban environments. In these situations, individuals can quickly become disorientated and stressed at the lack of adequate spatial information, and this can impact their movement and subsequently disturb overall movement patterns among pedestrians. Improved planning of the spatial locations of pathways and other areas can benefit not only pedestrians but also other users of these spaces such as market traders. Ebiteme believes that this line of research will be of particular benefit to urbanization in developing countries by providing better pedestrian facilities with improved environmental and safety features.

Ebiteme's experience with the NYSC strengthened her opinion about the importance of education for young people. After completion of her PhD studies, she plans to join one of the federal universities in her home state to transfer her experience and knowledge to young Nigerian people and help them grow in academia.