



Apiwe Hotele

Technology commercialization specialist

Re-imagining women and girls position & status in STEM, knowledge production and empowerment in building a feminist Cape Town



Who is Apiwe?

- BSc Computer Science and Biochemistry (cum laude) University of Fort Hare
- BSc Computer Science (HONS) University of Fort Hare
- MSc Computer Engineering University of Cape Town
- Founder of Enlighten-Edu, an online peer-to-peer learning platform designed for learners, parents and teachers. https://www.en-lighten.co.za/
- Founder of #Breakingthestereotype, an annual event focused on motivating female engineers and scientists at the University of Cape Town. The theme for 2020 is "Unleashing your superpowers"
- Profiled by Mail and Guardian as the 200 most influential Young South Africans for the year 2018
- Winner of the Destiny Magazine and Airbnb Host a Hero Campaign; this is awarded to women who selflessly give both their time and money to better the lives of people around them.
- In June 2019 she was listed by News24 as one of the 100 young Mandela, these are South Africans who embody the true spirit of Nelson Mandela.
- She was recently named as one of the top inspiring women in ICT by the kingdom of the Netherlands through the SA embassy and CoCreateSA.

What is a feminist? What is Feminism?

According to Wikipedia

Feminism is a range of social movements, political movements, and ideologies that aim to define, establish, and achieve the political, economic, personal, and social equality of the sexes.

According to International Women's Development Agency (IWA)

Feminism is about respecting diverse women's experiences, identities, knowledge and strengths, and striving to empower all women to realise their full rights.

Can anyone be a feminist?

Yes! Being a feminist simply means **believing in equal rights for all genders**. It's not about hating men. It's not about women being better than men. It's not about eschewing femininity.

Being a feminist is about **learning** and **understanding** the ways that **inequality affect women** and men, and remembering that we're all in this together. **True equality leaves no one behind.**

Girls, Women and StEM

- The number of girls studying Maths and Science in high school is very low, why?
- Women are under-represented in engineering and science degree programs. Women enter these degree programmes in greater numbers each year, however there is a high attrition of female students before completion of degree programmes. Why?
- Statistics from the *Engineering* Council of *South Africa* showed that 70% of the *women* who *graduated* with *engineering* degrees left the sector after starting their careers. Why?

The IMBASA Program

The aim of IMBASA is to ensure that learners from previously disadvantaged communities have access to quality education. We did this in Four ways:

MOTIVATE, EMPOWER, EDUCATE and FINANCE



The IMBASA Program

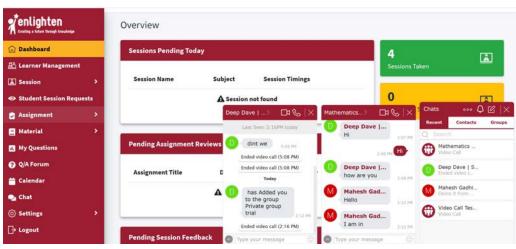
MOTIVATE, EMPOWER, EDUCATE and FINANCE Adopted Ikamvalethu High School



The IMBASA Program has grown into Enlighten-Edu

A peer-to-peer learning platform designed for learners, teachers and parents to improve Math and Science competency.

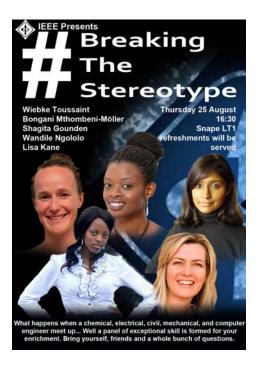
The platform allows learners to receive **individual assistance**, parents to **monitor day to day learner progress** and teachers to **identify individual learner needs** using data supplied by the platform.





#BreakingTheStereotype

#BreakingTheStereotype is an annual event focused on motivating young female scientists and engineers studying at the University of Cape Town.







Recommendations

- The one size fits all approach does not work, rural, urban and townships have different challenges that require different approaches, same applies for girls and boys. We need to find a solution unique to the environment and implement
- DBE, Institutions of higher learning, Public and Private companies need to converse about requirements
- The government needs to fund more programs focused on:
 - Investigating why girls are not studying STEM Subjects
 - Why there is high attrition in female engineering graduates
 - Why females leave the engineering sector early in their careers
 - Creating an environment that is conducive for learners to study, especially girls
 - Invest in EduTech solutions to assist learners and teachers
 - Invest in STEM entrepreneurship

Thank you







SKA South Africa a National Facility of the National Research Foundation We are building the Square Kilometre Array radio telescope (SKA), located in South Africa and eight other African countries, with part in Australia. The SKA will be the largest radio telescope ever built and will Produce science that changes our understanding of The universe

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