

IF I COULD INVENT SOMETHING NEW

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To invent something means to make, create or design something that has never been in existence before. When I was in Primary five, there was a woman on our street who worked very hard just to pay the school fees for her four children. Unfortunately, by the time her children were grown and already successful, she could hardly remember their names and faces. In fact, she could repeat one sentence several times. That situation so touched me that I wished I could be of help. I took note of those symptoms, asked my parents, teachers, and my Basic Science teacher in JSS (Junior Secondary School) One told me that the woman was suffering from the **Alzheimer's disease**.

Alzheimer's disease is a neurological disorder that affects memory, thinking and behaviour. It was first founded by Alois Alzheimer in 1906. It is the most common form of dementia accounting from 60% to 80% of dementia cases. According to the World Health Organization, the estimated number of people worldwide with dementia is 55 million which means Alzheimer's disease is ranging from 33 million to 44 million with number projected to triple in 2050. This is painful. In the United States alone, over six million people are living with Alzheimer's disease with a new diagnosis every 65 seconds.

Although the exact cause of the disease is not fully understood, it is characterized by two main types of brain changes which are amyloid plaques (deposit of beta amyloid protein that disrupts normal brain functions) and neurofibrillary tangles (twisted fibre of tau protein that damages the brain). The risk factor of developing the disease is age which is 65 years and above, though nine percent of people with the disease are below 65 years. Other factors include family history, genetics, lifestyle factors et cetera.

The symptoms include memory loss, confusion, disorientation, difficulty with communication and of daily routine and activity. The symptom of the disease gets more alarming the longer a person goes with the disease. The cure of the Alzheimer disease has not yet been discovered but medication and rehabilitation can reduce symptoms.

If I had the chance to invent something, it would be the cure of the Alzheimer's disease. Though I am not sure if my solution to cure the disease is right yet, but I strongly believe it will bring relief to many homes in the Nigerian society and the world at large when I eventually get it.

In conclusion, my strong motivation is that even if I don't get it at my first attempt, I won't give up because Mark Zuckerberg didn't make Facebook at his first attempt. He made other software and games but didn't give up. Just like him, I won't throw in the towel till I found the cure for Alzheimer's disease.