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IF I COULD INVENT SOMETHING NEW

Imagine living in a society where people with mental illnesses can be cured with a special drug. This has always been my dream for Nigeria, and if I had a chance to invent something new, it would be to invent a drug to cure mental illness. In Nigeria, like in many other countries, mental health issues are challenging, but what if we could create something to help those struggling with these conditions?

In Nigeria today, mental illness is still seen as a spiritual attack and many people are roaming around the streets with cognitive issues, who are in danger and likely to cause harm. Very little has been done to address this issue. People who suffer from these conditions often do not get the help they need due to a lack of resources or because mental illness is frequently misunderstood.

Mental illnesses include conditions like depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety, and so on, but in Nigeria, they are mostly known as ‘madness’. My mum owns a restaurant, and no week goes by without her talking about ‘mad’ people who come to her to ask for food. Although she gives them and calls it ‘her little contribution to society’, she never fails to mention that a lot needs to be done to take these people out of the streets. I will never forget an experience where my mum and other neighbours had managed to transport a mentally displaced young man who had gone out of control and was completely naked, to a rehabilitation centre nearby, but they refused to admit him because they did not have space to accommodate more people.

Madness is a terrible thing to be experienced as an individual. It affects both the physical and mental capabilities of a man, his intellect, imagination, and behaviour. It renders him partially, or in most cases, completely useless to himself and society.

Although there are drugs to manage these mental conditions in advanced countries in the world today, however, if a pill is invented to completely cure mental illness, I believe the death rate of humans suffering from these illnesses in Nigeria will be decreased, and the pains of their loved ones would go away. Inventing this drug will help people who are suffering live happily, enabling them to fulfil their full potential and contribute their skills to society, just like everyone else.

I intend to do this by pursuing a degree in psychiatry at the university and collaborating with other people who might share the same dream. I would also like to share this vision with people who will be willing to contribute financially, so the drugs can be given free of charge to people with no money.

In conclusion, I believe that although it might be challenging, inventing a cure for madness will create a society I have always dreamed of, which is filled with happiness, and where people can live fulfilling lives.