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IF I COULD INVENT SOMETHING NEW.

If I could invent something new, it would be finding a cure for Sickle Cell disease, an often fatal genetic disorder that affects millions of people worldwide and is responsible for high infant mortality, bringing suffering and emotional despair to both the patients and their loved ones.

Sickle Cell Disease or SCD is a very painful health condition that affects haemoglobin production, causing red blood cells to misshapen like a sickle-hence the name-and break down prematurely. This causes anaemia, infections and major organ damages. All these combine to significantly reduce the quality of life of the victims and affect their loved ones.

My invention will be targeted at the root cause of the disease, the deranged HBB gene responsible for the production of abnormal haemoglobin. I will focus on a gene editing tool that will correct the genetic mutation thus restoring normal haemoglobin function thereby eliminating the debilitating symptoms.

I will name my new invention “SiCure”. I will also make sure the procedures for treatment will be minimally painful, requiring just a draw of venous blood to extract the patient’s stem cells which will then be edited and then reintroduced into the patient’s body.

With SiCure, a permanent cure would have been achieved without the need for medications and hospitalizations. Furthermore, I will make it not only easily accessible but affordable so that people in developing countries where the disease is prevalent will have access to it no matter their social, economic or financial status. Also, the quality of life of patients will be improved by a pain-free and active life devoid of complications and fears.

Coupled with my new invention will be vast education and awareness programmes to prevent genetic marital mismatches and incompatibility, counselling services as well as social and economic support for families that are already affected. The number of out-of-school children that are directly caused by the effects of SCD will be drastically reduced if not completely eliminated if and when SiCure takes off.

By and large, if I could invent something new, it would be an invention on which my heart and soul will be totally poured to bring succour to millions of people worldwide. A cure for Sickle Cell Disease would be like a beacon of hope in tumultuous seas for the millions affected by restoring their health and most importantly, their dignity. It will be a hallmark of the resilience of man to scientific innovations and the desire to make a difference in the world through scientific, technological and medical inventions.