

ASSIGNMENT on ; Describe the history of nursing profession in Cameroon.

Profession nursing is known to be the blending of intellectual attainment, attitude, and mental skills based on scientific medicine, acquired by means of a prescribed course in a school of nursing.

The French colonial masters created a nursing training school in 1933 in Ayos. This school greatly contributed to the training of indigenous physician in cameroon. Initially nursing care was performed without any formal education. Due to the societal health needs and other factors, nursing was influenced in Cameroon. There was a great need for more nurses and a greater variety of services.

Before 1884, traditional medicine was practiced in Cameroon. The Germans came in 1884 (during the colonial period ) and trained dressers who were employed in native hospitals in Victoria.

In 1940, the first nursing school was opened in Tiko. Between 1960 and 1999, nursing education started in Bamenda with the training school for health personel. In 1960, a training school was opened in shisong and BBH.

In 1970, the French system of training was introduced. And now, in current time we have so many training schools for nurses in Cameroon.

Entry into practice is based on a three year diploma which can now be obtained from both the ministries of public health and higher education. Preregistration diplomas program also continue even as undergraduate programs are now available.

The ministry of public health was the first provider of nurse education in Cameroon before being joined by the ministries of higher education and that of employment and vocational training in the late 1990s and mid 2000s respectively. In the present dispensation, the ministries of public health and vocational training can only issue diplomas by law while the ministry of higher education can issue both diplomas and degrees. The ministry of higher education is predicted to emerge as the key provider of nursing education in the future considering the movement towards the bachelor-master-PhD structure of higher education in Cameroon.

The current structure of nursing program is as follows; Preregistration diplomas which are assistant nurses and enrolled nurses, Registration diplomas/degrees which are state registered nurse, higher national diplomas and bachelor degree nurses, and lastly Post-registration diplomas/degrees which are state certified (paediatric nurses, nurse midwives, mental health nurse, geriatric nurse, nurse anesthetics and nurse ophthalmologist) and masters in nursing.

The above structure has made it challenging for international credential evaluation agencies trying to evaluate nursing certificates in Cameron. In addition there is no professional regulatory body in Cameroon.

