

COURSE : Fundamentals Of Nursing

Assignment : Describe the History of Nursing Profession in Cameroon

History being the study of change over time, we will try to see how this change has been with respect to the nursing profession in Cameroon.

- Before the French and Britain colonial masters created nursing schools in Ayos 1933 and southern cameroon in 1946 respectively, health care at the time was mainly by religious rulers and plantation owners.
- In 1961 when southern cameroon got her independence by reunification with East cameroon, the council of cameroon Nursing and Midwifery was created. It was responsible for recruiting candidates into nursing schools and issue certificates at end of course.
- This was the only period in the history of nursing in cameroon that had a visible professional body regulating the practice of nursing but was later cut short in 1972 in favour of a unitary state.
- However, some factors influenced the nursing professional trend such as development in medicine, nursing also changed with need for specialization such as nurse anaesthetist.
- Recently, associations such as the Cameroon Association for Registered Nurse and Midwifery were created giving the nursing profession a sense of autonomy, which provided registrations for professional nurses.
- Nursing service in hospitals was mainly direct nursing care health teaching and others. Nursing later expanded outwardly to the community and upwardly for experts to utilize their expertise for direct care.
- Nurse practitioners were no longer just giving care but their roles increased of which they could identify health problems, prescribe medications and others.
- With respect to the educational structure, the Ministry of Public health was the first provider of nurse education in cameroon, of which the Ministry of Higher education joined after in the early 2000s of which it could offer both diploma and degree, meanwhile that of Public health could only offer diplomas.
- In conclusion, cameroon has developed its first health sector strategy since 2001 to 2015. The nursing profession has greatly evolved from then till now. Cameroon has a legislative and regulatory for governance of the health sector.