

Name: Tenzem Vanisa

Level: 500

Assignment: Development of the nursing profession in Cameroon

Nursing encompasses autonomous and collaborative care given to individuals, families and community so they may attain, maintain or recover optimal health and quality of life.

The nursing profession in Cameroon has its root from the colonial era, when Cameroon was under German and later French and British colonial rule. During this time, healthcare services were provided by European missionaries and colonial administrators.

The formal nursing education in Cameroon began in the early 20th century with the establishment of nursing schools by the colonial authorities. These schools trained local women to provide basic healthcare services in hospitals and clinics. However, the number of trained nurses was limited, and healthcare services remained inadequate for the growing population.

After Cameroon gained independence in 1960, efforts were made to expand and improve the nursing profession. In the 1960s and 1970s, nursing in Cameroon experienced a shift towards professionalization. The recruitment and training of nurses became more structured whereby the government established more nursing schools, introduced nursing education programs in universities and nursing schools were established to provide comprehensive education and training. These initiative aimed to increase the number of trained nurses and improve the quality of healthcare services in the country.

Over the years the nursing profession has evolved and diversified. Professional nursing associations also emerged during this time to advocate for the rights and interests of nurses. This profession has expanded to include various specialties, such as pediatric, community health nursing and more. These diversity has allowed nurses to specialize and address specific healthcare needs.

Despite progress, the nursing profession in Cameroon faces challenges like inadequate resources and more. Nurses are now recognize as essential members of the healthcare team and contribute significantly to improving the health outcomes of individuals and communities in the country.

