

ENIH ROTHDA RUTH

SCHOOL: EXHIST

COURSE: FUNDAMENTALS OF NURSING

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HISTORY OF NURSING IN CAMEROON

The nursing profession in Cameroon has a rich and evolving history that dates back to the colonial era post-independent era and professionalization and continues expansion.

1. **Colonial Era (late 19th century-1960)**; during the colonial period nursing in Cameroon was primarily performed by traditional birth attendants and herbalists. In the early 20th century, Christian missionary groups such as catholic and protestant missions began establishing health care facilities and introduced western nursing practices .this missionary group played a great role in training and recruiting locals as nurses and midwives and this nursing education was mainly institution based, with limited formal training opportunities.
2. **Post-independent era (1960s -1980s)**; after Cameroon gained independence in1960s the government placed greater emphasis on health care infrastructure including development of schools and hospitals. The first nursing school in Cameroon was the “Government nurse training “ school in Bafoussam and was established in 1962.Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, nursing education expanded with establishments of more nursing schools across the country. These schools provided diploma level certificates for registered nurses and midwives.
3. **Professionalization and continued expansion (1990s-presnt)**; in the 1990s more efforts were made to specialized nursing in Cameroon. The nursing association was found to fight for the welfare of nurses and their rights. The Cameroon government also initiated reforms to updating nursing education by introducing the Bachelor of nursing science programs and implementing standardize curriculum for nursing schools. Of recent the have been and increase focus on improving the standards of nursing education and practice to be able to provide quality care. there has also been an introduction of post graduate nursing programs and specialization options .The number of nursing school is on arise and the give chances to other individuals to enroll into any of this nursing school and joining the profession as well. In addition the role of nurses has expanded beyond traditional bed care nursing to other roles such as; research, administration, education and policy development. Today nursing is essential as it has as goal to provide quality care.

