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Assignment: History of nursing profession in cameroon

The history of nursing in cameroon is closely tied up to the overall development of healthcare in the country. Nursing in cameroon has undergone significant transformations over the years, reflecting changes in health policies. the history of nursing in cameroon can be seen below

1) Early beginning: Nursing in cameroon traces its roots to the early 20th century during the colonial period when European nurses and missionaries provided healthcare services. These foreign nurses primarily worked in hospitals and clinics established by colonial powers.

2) Establishment of nursing training programs

In the 1960s following the Cameroons independence in 1960, efforts were made to develop local nursing training programs. The government recognised the need for qualified nurses to address the healthcare needs of the growing population. several nursing schools were established across the country to educate and train cameroonian nurses

3) National Association of cameroonian nurses

In 1963 the national association of cameroonian nurses (ANICAM) was founded. (ANICAM) played a crucial role in advocating for the rights and welfare of nurses, promoting professional development and standardizing nursing education and practice. The association has been instrumental in shaping the nursing profession in cameroon.

4) Nursing education and regulation

Over the years nursing education in cameroon has evolved. The government in collaboration with nursing associations and international partners has worked to improve the quality of nursing education and ensure adherence to international standards. The curriculum has been revised to include theoretical knowledge, skills and clinical experiences.

5) Expansion of nursing practice and specialisation

As healthcare needs have grown, the nursing profession has expanded to include specialized areas of practice. Nurses now work in various healthcare settings such as hospitals, clinics, community health centers and public health programs. Specialisations include paediatric nursing, psychiatric nursing, critical care nursing, midwifery and community health nursing among others

6) Continuing professional development :professional development and continuing education opportunities has become increasingly available to cameroonian nurses. Nursing associations, training programs and nurses workshops and conferences are organised to enhance nurses knowledge and skills promote research and facilitate networking among professionals.

7) Challenges and future outlook: like in many countries nursing in cameroon faces challenges such as limited resources, inadequate staffing, and disparities in healthcare access between urban and rural areas . Efforts are being made to address these challenges by the government nursing associations and international body. The future of nursing in cameroon looks promising with ongoing efforts to improve healthcare infrastructures, increase the number of nurses and enhance the quality of nursing education