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Before the advent of modern nursing during the colonial era, the care of patients in different villages and tribes were in the hands of medicine men and women who used spiritual powers and herbs in the diagnosis and treatment of both physical and spiritual ailments.

In the colonial era, nursing in Cameroon was primarily carried out by foreign missionaries and colonial administrators. These individuals provided basic health care focusing mainly on maternal and child health.

Nursing profession in Cameroon started in the colonial era during the annexation of Cameroon in 1884 a type of medical personnels called dressers were trained who were considered assistant surgeons.

In 1849 the German missionary Alfred Saker opened a primary school and a dispensary in Douala and trained health personnels on the spot.

In the 1926 a mission on the fight against sleeping sickness was sent to Cameroon with Dr Eugene Jamot as the team leader. Dr Jamot Eugene transformed the segregation center for women in Ayos as an instruction center to train nurse aides for the treatment of those affected with sleeping sickness. This marked the first school to train nurse aides in Cameroon with a training duration of three months. It evolved to health assistant who were trained for three years who performed both medical and nursing roles.

In 1932 the training of brevet nurses started with training of two years period

In 1954, the first training school for nurses started by the Catholic mission at Shisong who trained nurses in a three years program.

In 1969, the state owned Bamenda nursing school was formerly opened to train staff nurses. Those schools were all hospital based as there was no university programs at the time and the program was under the ministry of public health

In 1955, the training of state registered nurse started following the French system until 1969.

In 1970, the training program for registered nurses were purely Cameroonians and the level required was an ordinary level with three years studies.

The cycle of training senior nursing care started in 1972 which was opened in the university teaching center in Yaounde with a period of two years and a diploma was awarded at the end.

The university of Buea began a bachelor degree program in nursing for a period of four years.

In 2002, the training of brevet nurses was stopped and advance level was required to train as registered nurses and ordinary level for assistant nurses.

The university of Yaounde I started a masters program in nursing in 2004 in the faculty of medicine and biomedical sciences.

