

EXPERIENTIAL HIGHER INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (EXHIST)

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Course: fundamentals of nursing L500

Describe the history of the nursing profession in Cameroon

Answer

The nursing profession in Cameroon has a rich history that evolved over time

Early years

- Colonial Influence. During the colonial era, nursing services in Cameroon were primarily provided by foreign missionaries and colonial medical personnel. They laid the foundation for nursing care in the country.

1960s-1970s

- Establishment of Nursing Schools. After gaining independence in the early 1960s, Cameroon recognized the importance of nursing and began establishing nursing schools in the country. These schools provided basic nursing education and training
- Professional Organizations. In 1964, the Cameroon Nurses Association (CNA) was founded. The CNA played a significant role in advocating for the rights and welfare of nurse and fostering professional development.

1980s-1990s.

- Regulation and Standardization: in 1986, the Cameroon Nursing Council (CNC) was established as the regulatory body for nursing practice. The CNC set standards, licenses nurses, and ensure the quality of nursing education programs
- Expansion of Nursing Education: nursing education expanded during this period with the establishment of more nursing schools

2000s-present

- Advanced Nursing Education: higher education institute began offering BNS and MSN programs which allowed nurses to specialize in specific areas and pursue leadership roles,
- Professional Development: continuing education programs, workshops and conferences became more prevalent, providing opportunities for nurses to enhance their knowledge and skills.

Throughout the evolution, nursing in Cameroon has played a crucial role in healthcare delivery, nurses provide direct patient care, health education, disease prevention and community health services. The have become essential members of the health care team across the country.