

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

FUNDAMENTALS OF NURSING

THE HISTORY OF THE NURSING PROFESSION IN CAMEROON

The history of the nursing profession in Cameroon can be traced back to the colonial era. In 1933, the French colonial masters established a nursing training school in Ayos. This school played a significant role in training indigenous nurses. In 1939, French Cameroon had 150 medical centers and 50 doctors. To combat sleeping sickness, a team led by Eugene Jamot, consisting of 12 doctors, 22 nurses, 13 assistants, and 24 European health agents, traveled through the affected areas. These areas were divided into seven sectors: **Yaoundé, Ayos, Abong Mbang, Bertoua, Bafia, Sangmalema, and Logone-Birni**. Sleeping sickness was completely eradicated in 1939.

The British colonial administration established a University College, a Faculty of Medicine, a School of Pharmacy, a School of Dental Technology, a School of Dental Hygienists, a School of Radiography, a School of Medical Laboratory Technology, and regional schools for nurses, midwives, sanitary inspectors, and health advisors in 1946 to meet the growing colonial economy's demand for a healthy workforce.

In 1960, Cameroon gained independence from France and Great Britain. At the time, there were approximately 400 nurses and midwives in the country. The government of Cameroon was determined to improve the healthcare system and train more nurses. In 1962, the first public nursing school was established in Yaoundé. This school was followed by the establishment of other public nursing schools in various parts of the country.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the nursing profession in Cameroon experienced significant growth. This was due to a number of factors, including the establishment of new nursing schools, the expansion of government health facilities, and the introduction of new health programs.

In the 1990s, the nursing profession in Cameroon faced a number of challenges, including the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the economic crisis, and the shortage of qualified nurses. However, the government and the **Cameroon Nursing Association (CNA)** have worked together to address these challenges.

Today, the nursing profession in Cameroon is relatively well-developed. There are over 10,000 nurses in the country, and there are a number of public and private nursing schools offering training programs. However, there is still a shortage of nurses in some parts of the country, and the government is working to address this challenge.