

ASSIGNMENT

HISTORY OF NURSING IN CAMEROON *(by Obiako Uchenna Vivian)*

The history of Nursing in Cameroon can be categorized into three stages

1. The pre-colonial era before (1884)
2. Colonial era (1884-1959)
3. Post-colonial era (1960-1999)

The colonial era: This is the period where traditional medicine was used as a remedy for treating illnesses.

Colonial era: During the colonial era, the Germans trained interested candidates in the native hospital in Victoria around 1923 under the European officers supervision. They were called the **dressers** and were employed by the native authorities to do the following: attend to patients wound, treat minor illnesses, carry out sterilization, consult the sick in the dispensary and refer cases to hospitals. During this time the first Cameroon nurses were trained in the Albert nursing home in Victoria in 1880's and graduated four years later as Nigerian Registered Nurses. In 1940's the Cameroon Wealth Development Cooperation now CDC, started training **dressers** and a training school with the same curriculum as Victoria school was opened in Tiko in the late 1940s to train Nigerian registered nurses. The **dressers** were the qualified candidates to be selected for the training and this system served till the 1950s

Post-colonial era: This is the period nursing education started in Bamenda around 1966 in the Bamenda nursing and midwifery school and the GCE was the prerequisite for admission. The candidates graduated as State Registered Nurses in 1969 and were awarded the Assistant Nursing Super Certificate. In 1970s a French system of training Assistant Nurses, Nurses and Midwives was started. A nursing training school was created in Ayos in [1933](#) by a French colonial master named Eugene Jamot. This school contributed immensely to the training of certified nurses. In 1960, the catholic nursing school Yaoundé and protestant nurses school in Douala started training nurses. In 1954 Shisong Catholic Hospital started training nurses while Bansa Baptist hospital started in 1980s

Today there are many training school for nurses in the country like the university of Buea, the Catholic University of Central Africa, university of Bamenda, CATUC, CCU etc. The UB and UCAC train nurses at the level of the PhD in public health and education. Presently, the entry requirement for Nursing is the advanced level GCE and then the training for three years. The Ministry Of Health selects its candidates through an entrance examination and they graduate as State Registered Nurses, while the Ministry Of Higher Education get her candidates through the study of files with minimum qualification of Advanced Level and are awarded a higher national diploma at the end of their studies