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The history of nursing profession in cameroon can't be analyse without mentioning the political evolution of the country as it directly influences the profession from pre colonial era, colonial era and post colonial era to present day. Before the advent of "modern" nursing during colonial era, the care of patients in different tribes and villages were in the hands of "medicine" men and women. These people who still exist are believed to posses spiritual powers and deep knowledge of herbs , rituals and other roles in diagnosing and treating both physical and spiritual ailments. This "traditional medicine " is believed to have components that could be taught through apprenticeship and others that could only be transferred to a successor spiritually following instructions from ancestors. Issues of delivery and postpartum care were handled by traditional birth attendance (TBA) who were usually elderly women. The TBA received no formal training and may have learned by apprenticeship. They provided care for mother and neonates, advised on nutrition, hygiene and circumcision.

The responsibility of caring for the sick persons was usually in the hands of their relatives who were usually guided by the native doctors. In this era the profession of nursing did not exist in Cameroon until the arrival of Missionaries and colonialists in the late 19th Century. This was similar to the experiences of other Countries. However it is known that nursing profession in cameroon was the creation of the Colonial era.

When the German annexed Cameroon in 1884 they trained a type of medical personnel called "Dressers " (Maingeh). A Dressers was a surgeon Assistant "some sort of male nurse" whose duty was to dress wounds and sores (Lee 2005) There is virtually no local literature on what this training entailed and what the role of Dressers was in the health care system.

After the German, came the British and French After WW1. Where according to National Observatory for Human Resources for Health Cameroon NOHRHC (2010) Dr Eugene Jamot opened the 1st school to train nurse Aides in 1930. According to Kamta (1999) the training evolved to health Assistants who were trained for 3years and perform both medical and nursing roles. In 1959 the formal curriculum for training of nurses based on French model was introduced in French Cameroon.

In British Cameroon (Meingeh 1999) reported that after the German left the British continued using the services of the Dresser when they opened the Africa Hospital in Victoria by 1933. At this time training for nurses was only in Nigeria since British manage southern Cameroon as part of Nigeria. It was easy for Cameroonians to study in Nigeria.. The NOHRHC (2010) reported that the 1st training school in this part of the country was stated by the Catholic mission in 1954 at Shisong. the school train staff nurses in a three years programme. The State nurse Bamenda nursing school was formerly opened in 1969 to also train staff nurse under the ministry of Public health.