

**EXPERIENTIAL HIGHER INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (EXHIST)
YAOUNDE**

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE NURSING PROFESSION IN CAMEROON

The evolution of nursing in Cameroon is divided into the pre-colonial nursing period, the colonial period nursing and the postcolonial period.

The pre-colonial period: Unconventional nursing was practiced it was mostly provided by family members and native doctors assistants. Medicine in this period involved use of herbs, concoctions seeing of a healer and diviners. In this era diseases were considered to be either natural and or supernatural.

The colonial period: Colonial masters looked at African medicine as cursed and therefore asked that it be banned and considered them to be illegal. Nursing was offered by missionaries. In British Cameroon traditional healers were organised in specialties like diviners, midwives and magicians. Here nursing was based on teaching hygiene methods, with opening of hospitals in Limbe, Douala, Ayos for the treatments of trypanosomiasis, leprosy and measles. This was headed by Eugene Jamot and he trained health agents from 1920 to 1926.

- **1926:** bevetaire nurses were trained in the Ayos medical school with FSLC and 2years of training.
- **1956:** training of nursing with O levels and 2years of training with certificate awarded by France.
- **1965:** Cameroon had 105 nurse assistants.
- Here nurses practiced mainly bedside nursing.

Post colonial period nursing. Period of educated nursing

- 1969 the CESSI was created with conditions of SRN with at least 4 years of experience
- **1974:** launching of the school for specialises nursing in ophthalmology mental health anaesthesia and reanimation
- **1990:** 34 training schools were closed and reopened in 1991 except for CESSI
- **2000:** the University of Buea started training nurses with bachelor's degree.

Currently the ministries in charge of the training of nurses in Cameroon are MINSANTE, MINSUP and MIN of employment and vocational training. Nurses in Cameroon can now further their education in BMD system. Nurses have evolved from the doctor's maiden to collaborators with doctors. Holding key positions as nurse consultants, surgical nurses and even nurse administrators, researchers and are leading key positions in the national health system. To conclude the nursing profession is evolving every day and expanding beyond imagination.