

Semi Bertha Mai

EXHIST University

Level 500

Fundamentals Nursing Assignment

Describe the history of nursing in Cameroon

Nursing in Cameroon can be traced as far back as the precolonial period.

Before the modern nursing during the colonial era, the care of patients in different tribes and villages were in the hands of the “traditional healers”, while issues of fertility and pregnancy were managed by the traditional birth attendants (TBAs), usually elderly women with experience in that field. They received no formal training.

The next phase was the colonial era. The Germans trained a type of medical personnel called “Dresser”.

The Germans were followed by the British and French Colonization, and the first school to train nurse aides was opened in 1930. This training lasted 3months.

The British Cameroons opened The African Hospital in Victoria by 1933.

A nursing training school was created in Ayos in 1933 by the French colonial masters.

The first training school in the north-western part of the country was created by the Catholic Mission in 1954 in Shisong.

The State-owned Bamenda Nursing School was formally opened in 1969.

All the above nursing programmes at the time were under the Ministry of Public Health.

The University of Buea began a four-year training programme for a Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing in 1996, and received its first Masters-in-Nursing students in 2009.

The University of Yaounde 1 also started a Masters in Nursing in the late 2000s.

However, entry into practice is still based on the three-year diploma or four-year programme obtained from the Ministries of Public Health and Higher Education.