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Subject: Fundamental of nursing

Question: Describe the history of the nursing profession in Cameroon.

Answer:

Nursing encompasses autonomous and collaborative care of individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick or well and in all settings.

A nurse is one who has met all legal requirements for registration in a state and who practices or holds position by virtue of her professional knowledge and legal status.

In Cameroon the development of nursing can be traced right back from colonial era. During the colonial era people were primarily caring for their communities by traditional men or women who use herbs, spiritual power to diagnose and treat ailments. In this era, the caring role was directed to the woman and families.

The Missionaries and colonial masters arrived Cameroon in late 19th century. When the German annexed Cameroon, they started training health care professional which they called dressers, these dressers were male nurses trained to dress wounds and care for the sick.

A nursing training school was created by Dr. Eugene Jamot in Ayoa in 1933 by the French colonial masters, which gave out training to health care assistance for three years.

The first school for staff nurse was later opened by the Catholic Missionaries in Shisong in 1954. This was followed by the opening of another school for staff nurses by the government in 1969.

The west Cameroon nursing and midwifery council was created in 1961 west Cameroon was a federated state. At this time west Cameroonian nurses were educated in Nigerian colonial institution. The council was responsible for the recruitment into training schools, supervision of training programs and examinations. The council was at this time responsible for issuing authorization for practice.

In 1972 when Cameroon became a united nation, the west Cameroon regulatory body was abolished, still in 1980s, the government open schools that trained state registered nurses. An association was also created by the government for health professionals that is nurses midwives and health technicians association. It acted as an umbrella for the health professions.

Today university education is available for nurses training bachelor, master and even phd levels in Cameroon. There are also association for nurses like the Cameroon nurses association, Cameroon nursing society, these associations' help to register nurses.