

23/6/03
UNIVERSITY

SOCIAL WELFARE REPORT, ELLICE ISLANDS, 1949.

1. Introduction:

On all islands in the District, there are three Bodies which carry out the functions of social welfare for the community of that island. They are

- (a) The Volunteers - a group of young men who volunteer to carry out such duties as care of sick, burials, community work in regard to cleanliness of the island etc. etc.,
- (b) Sporting Club - a body which carries out similar duties to (a)
- (c) Women's Committee - special attention to child welfare and general cleanliness of the village.

The work of these three bodies will be described in detail in the following paragraphs of this report.

2. Administration:

The District Officer is responsible in an advisory capacity for all social welfare work. He is greatly helped in this by the L.M.S. Pastors on each Island.

3. Training Activities: Not applicable.

4. Child and Youth Welfare:

A. Child Welfare:

1. The Women's Committee on each island inspects the young children each morning to see that they have been properly washed and are wearing clean clothes.

2. All children feed in their homes. Each school has a playing area in its vicinity. There are no school camps.

3. Not applicable. All children attend school when of age.

B. Youth Welfare:

Generally the Sporting Club comprise the young people of the villages. Their activities are outlined as above. On some islands organized inter-village sports fixtures are arranged and create much enthusiasm amongst players and spectators.

The leaders of the youth organizations are generally older men experienced in the art of fishing and sportsmanship and native crafts.

C. Welfare of Children and Young People in need of Special Care.

The Women's Committees on each island undertake to see that people in this category are properly cared for by their relatives. There is no destitution in this District.

5. Family Welfare:

5. Family Affairs:A. Communal Organisation:

- (1) See 1 above.
- (2) The Native Government of the island acts as an Advice Bureaux for any persons desirous of their help.
- (3) Women's Committee: On an island such as Niutao with a population of approximately 700, there is a Women's Committee at present consisting of a Chairwoman and thirty one other members. Any woman, young or old is eligible to become a member of this Committee. They may leave the Committee at any time if they so desire. The Committee meets once a week and each month it holds a general meeting of all the women of the island. The duties of this Committee in detail are as follows (this is typical of any island in the group);
 - (i) inspect young children each morning to see that they have been bathed and have clean clothes,
 - (ii) daily inspection of houses to see that they are not leaking,
 - (iii) daily inspection of the cooking houses and immediate vicinity to see that it is clean,
 - (iv) daily inspection of beach to see that it is clean and to make certain that people are using below the high water mark as the lavatory,
 - (v) daily inspection to see that people are not using the bush in the vicinity of the village as a lavatory,
 - (vi) periodic cleaning up of family babai and taro pits to ensure that they are free of weeds and that the babai and taro is growing well,
 - (vii) assistance to Native Government in the making of island presents for visitors,
 - (viii) help to the island Dresser in all cases where a woman is giving birth,
 - (ix) when persons are found sick in the village the Committee go to the Dresser for any medical requirements and if necessary act as nurse to the sick person.
 - (x) arrange feasts and parties for the island children at Christmas etc., and
 - (xi) make suggestions to the Native Governments in general matters, for the improvement and the betterment of living conditions on the island. It should be noted that if a person refuses to clean up their house area after being instructed to do so by this Committee, the matter is referred to the Island Government who will then take the necessary Court action.

B. Family Assistance: The family spirit in this District is such that all members are thoroughly cared for from birth to death.

C. See B above.

D. Not applicable.

6. Rural Welfare: See 5 above.
7. Social Work of the Law Courts:
- (a) & (b) As per Native Government Ordinance No. 4 of 1941. There are no approved schools.
 - (c) In accordance with applicable Colony Legislation.
 - (d) Prison Visiting etc.: In accordance with applicable Colony Legislation.
8. Emergency Services: The three Bodies named in 1. above would carry out such functions as are necessary under the guidance of the District Officer.
9. Not applicable.
10. As stated in 1 above all the social welfare organizations in this District are voluntary. They receive no grants-in-aid
11. The (a) Volunteers
(b) Sporting Clubs
(c) Women's Committees have existed on each island in approximately the same form for over 10 years. The figures supplied in paragraph 5 sub-paragraph A (3) are for Niutao Island, the only island where a specific study social welfare was made during 1949. Figures for previous years are not available but the average number of members on these bodies would be fairly constant. The average monthly membership on Niutao with its population of 700 was as follows:
- (a) Volunteers - 50
 - (b) Sporting Club - 50
 - (c) Women's Committee - 35.

(Sgd.) F. Penitala Teō,
Acting District Officer.