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Some Aspects of Community Organization Work

by Eiji Kojima

There are those people in Japan who identify the social work with the activities for helping certain kinds of people—the poor, the sick, the delinquent, and the old and the infant. In reality, however, the social work cannot be identified in these days without considering its methods, that is, case work, group work, and community organization.

The fact that these methods have grown out of the same nursery and are functioning in mutual interdependence, makes it possible for us to say that they are related to a body of activities called social work.

These methods, moreover, can be utilized for various situations in fields other than those traditionally called social welfare. The potentiality of those methods in these new fields is illustrated by those activities for developing rural communities both in underdeveloped and developed countries. In Japan, too, we can find many illustrations of community development work in rural areas where utilization of the community organization processes are possible and desirable.

The writer tries here in this article to point out these facts by discussing main aspects of community organization processes.

Basic Problems Confronting Local Governments regarding "Locational Policy"

by Junjiro Takahashi

Recently the concern of government for locational activities is rapidly increasing and most of local governments have taken up various policies for restricting and stimulating industrial location, however, on account of the lack of experience and knowledge on general nature of the "locational policy", personnels of the local governments who are actually tackling this subject are confronted with many unsolved problems.

The main object of this article is to point out the basic problems which

are intrinsically involved in these policies and to discuss them in reference to ideas behind the policies and actual methods adopted by many local governments. Problems treated in this article are related to 1) the role of government for control over or restriction on private locational activities, 2) aims and goals of the "locational policy" in local level, 3) methods of industrialization (inducement of plants into underdeveloped areas).

In regard to the first problem, after a brief survey of the ways in which public authorities (local and national) can influence private locational decisions and of theoretical consideration on self-regulating locational tendencies in the competitive economy; the writer concludes that the government fills its role properly through activities in the following three areas, e.g. 1) decision on the location of its own facilities, 2) offering various informations and building up infra-structure for stimulating the desirable locational decisions and adjustments of private enterprises, 3) share of the social costs such as smoke prevention and water clearing etc. with private enterprises.

Writer's opinion on the second problem is, although there is no single ultimate criterion concerning the desirability of a locational policy, it is very convenient for the policy makers, particularly for the personnels of local government if they have some generally acceptable aims of locational policy. According to this consideration, he insists that theoretically a locational policy should be understood as a bridge between an industrial development policy and an areal development policy, implying that a locational policy should be combined with a community development policy in local level. He tries to propound the basic principles for programming through a brief sketch of his own ideal picture of local community derived from the "balanced community" theory.

In reference to the third problem, among various local government policies for an industrialization, the legal subsidies for plant inducement and the development of industrial estates are discussed, the former is the most prevailing method adopted by local government today and the latter is a recently introduced one in our country, but both carries various problems, so that discussions on these problems consist the main part of this section.

There are many problems connected with the locational policy of local governments but writer believes the problems mentioned above are basic in nature and full discussion on theoretical and practical aspects on these problems is essentially important for formulating a proper locational policy of local governments and developing a better community.