

Social Welfare in Japanese Colonial Taiwan (1921-1938): Redefining Social Problems, Delivering Social Provisions, and Popularizing Knowledge

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ABSTRACT

The “*shakai jigyou*” (social welfare) system was designed to replace the old relief program in Japan and was implemented in Taiwan in the 1920s as a result of the assimilation policy. Its establishment marked a great shift in the colonial welfare system. This article analyzes the development of *shakai jigyou* and how the colonial government redefined social problems in Taiwan. How *homen iin* (district commissioners) helped to survey the poor and delivered social services as well as social provisions to the general public was also discussed. This article further investigates how the Taiwan Social Work Association professionalized *shakai jigyou* but failed to popularize the knowledge of *shakai jigyou*.

Keywords: *Shakai Jigyou*, Social Solidarity, *Homen Iin* (District Commissioner), Taiwan Social Work Association, Social Welfare