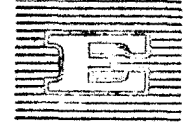


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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
19th session

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN
NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

(Report by the Secretary-General)

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Introduction

1. At its third session, the Commission on the Status of Women invited the Secretary-General "to transmit to it at each session any information which may be communicated to him by the Governments of Non-Self-Governing Territories concerning the status of women in those Territories."^{1/}
2. In pursuance of this resolution, such information has been presented to the Commission from its fourth to eighth session.^{2/}
3. The information transmitted to the Secretary-General since the eighth session of the Commission indicates that there have been no major changes in the status of women in the Non-Self-Governing Territories since the publication of the last report (E/CN.6/237). There has, however, been a certain amount of progress in some of the Territories, primarily in the fields of the protection of mother and child and education; excerpts from the annual reports concerning the administration of these Territories have been included below.
4. For further information on conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Secretary-General has the honour to refer to the United Nations publication entitled "Non-Self-Governing Territories, Summaries and Analyses of Information transmitted to the Secretary-General during 1953", Volumes I and II.^{3/} The corresponding volumes dealing with information transmitted during 1954 will be published in 1955.
5. The Secretary-General also has the honour to draw the attention of the Commission to the Report of the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories to the Ninth Session of the General Assembly (document A/2729). Part I of this document is a general report of the Committee and Part II of the document is a special report on economic conditions in Non-Self-Governing Territories.

^{1/} Document E/1316, paragraph 18.

^{2/} Documents E/CN.6/137, 159, 183, 211 and 237.

^{3/} ST/TRI/SER.A/8 and Add.1.

I. Status of Women in General

Gold Coast (Under United Kingdom administration)

The law relating to jury service was amended during the year to permit the names of women between 25 and 60 years of age who understand English and who are willing to perform jury service to be included in the jurors' lists.

The first woman District Magistrate was appointed during the year and there are now a number of women on the panels of juvenile courts.

The women's branch of the Gold Coast Police continued during the year to perform valuable duties in connexion with offences committed by women and juveniles.

The fund collected to mark the Coronation of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II is being devoted to the provision of day nurseries which will enable mothers of young children to undertake work more freely.

Kenya (Under United Kingdom administration)

A successful development activity was that of the African women's home-crafts instructors, 70 of whom were in training at the School during the year. Each woman taught is pledged to take part in forming a club in her own area, and throughout the Colony 230 Women's Clubs have been established with a total approximate membership of 10,300. Clubs are self-supporting and teach sewing, knitting, hygiene and child care. The movement has a dynamic quality of great promise.

II. Social Progress and Health

Africa

Belgian Congo (Under Belgian administration)

Maternal and Child Welfare: The number of births in maternity homes is constantly increasing. It rose from 95,924 in 1951 to 114,028 in 1952. Despite local customs and prejudices, pregnant women are becoming increasingly accustomed to the idea of having their confinement in a maternity home.

Welfare work for indigenous children in the Belgian Congo included 567 examinations of infants. The number of consultations is constantly increasing: an average of 109,822 weekly attendances with 249,287 enrolments in 1952, as against 66,225 and 156,174 respectively in 1951.

Morocco (Under French administration)

Maternal and Child Welfare: The considerable work done in the field of maternal and child welfare in the Moslem community has been further intensified.

New centres have been established:

Rabat area: Rabat, Alchari, Port-Liautey, Camp Marchant.

Casablanca area: Fédala, Derf Shalef, Boucheron (Service médico-social du Paysannat).

Meknes area: Sidi-Amar, Beni M'Hamed.

Fez area: Square Maurial.

Marrakesh area: Marrakesh, Arset-el-Moha, Safi-Port.

This brings the number of maternal and child welfare centres to 45.

Gambia (Under United Kingdom administration)

Maternal and Child Welfare: The new Maternity Health Centre at Basse which was opened in December 1952, is slowly gaining in popularity. There are three wards, with two labour wards, one being for septic cases.

Kenya (Under United Kingdom administration)

Measures to reduce Infant Mortality and to preserve Maternal Health: A pamphlet describing the causes and means of prevention of infant mortality was published by the Health Department in 1952. It has been written in simple language

The information of the rural African woman and has been published in English in four main vernaculars. It is issued free of charge and has proved so popular that reprinting has again been necessary.

Samoa

Samoa (Under New Zealand administration)

Maternal and Child Welfare: There is still a considerable amount of infant malnutrition, cases of which are sent into hospital when found by the district nurse, who also does regular inspections and treatment of infants and pre-school children. Ante-natal attendance shows slow improvement and during the past year there was a noticeable increase in hospital confinements.

Samoa (Under New Zealand administration)

Maternal and Child Welfare: The Child Welfare Service has expanded its activities during the year. There has been an increase in ante-natal supervision but the position is not yet considered satisfactory. The child welfare sister has dispensed large quantities of dried skim milk to pre-school children. Whooping cough vaccinations of babies has continued, but a change made to combined diphtheria-pertussis vaccine, which makes fewer injections necessary and ensures greater immunity to both diphtheria and whooping cough.

The child welfare sister went into residence for a week in four villages in order to give ante-natal and post-natal teaching, as well as simple talks, combined with practical demonstrations on obstetrics and infant feeding.

New Guinea (Under Dutch administration)

Maternal and Child Welfare: In all policlinics under the direction of a doctor and/or nurse information and guidance in the care of infants is given to expectant mothers and mothers.

At Hollandia, Manokuari and Manwatan there are already policlinics for women in child-bed and infants, and the consultation centres as well as the policlinics enjoy a constantly increasing interest on the part of the autochthones.

A children's ward was built at Hollandia.

A children's ward will be built and equipped at Manokuari at the expense of the National New Guinea Committee.

III. Education

Africa

Morocco (Under French administration)

Moslem girls and young women: With a view to furthering the advancement of Moroccan women, which is essential for the development of the country, the Service de la Jeunesse et des Sports has opened educational centres for Moroccan girl children, young girls and young women who wish to associate in obtaining physical, moral and technical training in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual confidence. These centres offer two stages of activity: (1) an elementary stage of fundamental education for children who are, or have been, unable to obtain any other form of education; (2) a supplementary stage of educational activity designed, in the light of the training received at school and at home, to enable every young girl or young woman to develop an integrated personality and to adapt herself easily to modern life.

Fundamental education: Despite the number of schools which exist in Morocco and the increased speed with which new ones are being built, a number of girl children are still unable to attend school. Furthermore, those who are a few years older have an equal need for fundamental education, which is the most effective and rapid means of teaching illiterates the essential knowledge needed for dealing with family, occupational and social life.

The Service de la Jeunesse et des Sports has therefore set itself the following objectives in that field: (a) to give young girls the necessary minimum of practical education; (b) to acquaint them with the most important feminine tasks (cooking, sewing, knitting etc.), to instruct them in the requirements of cleanliness and hygiene, to enable them to assimilate the necessary elements of progress and civilization without any violent conflict with living traditions and customs; (c) to develop them physically and mentally by means of physical training, fresh air and sport; (d) where possible, to teach them a trade which they can carry on at home and thus supplement their income. Technical schools have been opened for the training of carpet-weavers and courses in cooking and household management which are not merely intended for young girls who are anxious to become good housewives.

Educational activities: In the field of educational activities, the feminine centres, taking into account the background and the standard of education of the girls who attend them, apply the techniques developed by the training centres, using active educational methods, youth movements and sports groups, through the harmonious development of all the individual and collective potentialities of young people. Particular encouragement is given to the participation of girl children and young girls in training in self-expression (painting, interior decorating, marionettes, singing, drama etc.); the training of teams of young Moroccan girls according to the youth movement technique; the discipline required by sports, and such activities as will enable them to discover and make contact with the external world, such as studies, excursions, journeys, and staying in holiday camps. Through their interest in these activities the young girls are rapidly educated under the direction of assistant teachers - some of whom are Moroccan - and they attend the various training courses regularly.

Gold Coast (Under British administration)

Secondary education: The expansion of the facilities for secondary education continued with the opening, early in 1953, of four new assisted secondary day schools. These schools opened in temporary premises with a single class each. All are co-educational institutions, though the enrolment of girls is small compared with that of boys. Nevertheless the proportionate intake of girls was higher in 1953 than it was in the previous years.

Higher education: Now that the sixth form courses are available at a number of other institutions the University College is raising the standard required on entry to the same as that of the University of London.

As a result, the total enrolment of students in October 1953 fell to 430, of whom 14 were women.

Oceania

Cook Islands (Under New Zealand administration)

Domestic science lessons have been continued for senior girls of all Rarotongan schools. With the recent purchase of a suitable house on the Nikao school site, a more practical approach has been made by the development of a "Model Home". The course is designed to make the fullest use of local foods.

Niue (Under New Zealand administration)

Under the New Zealand Government Scholarship Scheme, 5 Niuean boys and 1 Niuean girl are receiving education in New Zealand secondary schools. This is the first year a Niuean girl has been chosen to enter a New Zealand secondary school.

Europe

Gibraltar (Under United Kingdom administration)

St. Joseph's Junior Girls School, Grand Parade, has been enlarged by the addition of further classrooms and St. Joseph's Junior Boys School, Scud Hill, has been rebuilt internally to provide better and additional accommodation. The Loreto High School was extensively reconditioned and is now the Girls' Grammar School with ample accommodation for 300 pupils. It is designed along modern lines and includes special rooms for arts and crafts and general science.
