Taneaki Hara’s Career and Achievements: Focus on His Activities at the Central Charity Association

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ABSTRACT

Taneaki Hara is the pioneer of prison reform and the rehabilitation of ex-convicts in Japan. The purpose of this study is to clarify Hara’s activities at the Central Charity Association, and the action of the Central Charity Association, during the period from 1908 to 1917. The Central Charity Association was established in 1908, the predecessor of the Japan National Council of Social Welfare. The predecessor of the Central Charity Association was the Society for the Study of the Poor which was set up in 1900 intending to inform the public of the aid for poor people. The Central Charity Association aimed to carry forward the charitable work and organized the charities of those days in Japan. Hara was the regular manager of the Central Charity Association and the editor of “Jizen” which was the quarterly journal of the Central Charity Association. This Association held many meetings and studied research tasks such as improving charitable services. In 1911, the managers of the Central Charity Association were engaged in the social research in the Home Office executed for poor citizens in Tokyo. The Central Charity Association tackled the problem of house improvement of the poor. In addition, Hara helped homeless people stand on their own. As a consequence, the managers of the Central Charity Association achieved the expected results.

Key Words: The Society for the Study of the Poor, The Central Charity Association, “Jizen”