

"RECOMMENDATIONS OF CHILD EMIGRATION COMMITTEE OF WOMEN'S GROUP ON  
PUBLIC WELFARE."

"Points which could be dealt with by regulations in this country are starred \*".

Recommendations:

Selection.

1.\* The main consideration in selection is not only whether the child is suited for emigration but whether emigration is best suited to his particular needs

2.\* Personal and family histories of the child to be emigrated should be collected in every case by a qualified social worker, preferably a Psychiatric Social Worker with special understanding of the emotional needs of children.

3.\* Every case should be considered by a Selection Committee which should consist of persons with relevant knowledge and experience, representing different aspects of children's welfare and education, who have opportunity to study in detail the histories and information about each applicant. The Committee should give their decision only after considering this material and interviewing the individual child and his parents or guardians. At least one member of the Selection Committee should have first-hand knowledge of conditions in the receiving country.

4.\* No recommendation can be made as to the best age for emigration as the evidence is conflicting. Although the younger child is more easily assimilated, there is grave responsibility in breaking the personal ties of a child in his early years.

5.\* When emigration is proposed for a child who has brothers and sisters, careful consideration should be given to the advisability of keeping the family unit together.

6.\* A central pool of information concerning the activities of all the Emigration Societies should be formed, so that persons interested can select the most suitable Society for a particular child. All the Children's Welfare Officers should be fully informed about the work of all the Emigration Societies.

Transition Period.

7. A period of pre-emigration training is essential and should be long enough to allow for the necessary preparation for the particular conditions of overseas life and education. This is specially important for children coming direct from their own homes.

8.\* The minimum ratio of escorts to children of school-age for the voyage overseas should be 1-5. For younger children the proportion may have to be higher.

Comments made at a  
Meeting of Council of Vol.  
Org. for Child Emigration  
19th March, 1951.

Agree.

Would agree that an experienced social worker should collect personal and family histories - but not necessarily a Psychiatric Social Worker. Would always refer a doubtful case to a Psychiatric Social Worker or Psychologist.

Would agree with this, subject to amendment, as follows, in sentence commencing "The Committee should.... etc".

"The Committee should give their decision only after considering this material and the report of a responsible person interviewing the individual child and his parents or guardians".

No comment.

This practice is already in operation.

This has been done.

Agreed that in certain cases a period of pre-emigration training is advisable, but it is felt that such a preparatory period should not be too long - in fact, only "long enough to allow for the necessary preparation for the particular conditions of overseas life".

Agree.