"We Present With Pride"

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in Dacca has 700 of the 1500 women enrolled in East Pakistan colleges. Asia Foundation gave $5000 in 1957 for the construction of a home economics laboratory. First classes in the new building were held on November 2, 1957, although equipment is still being purchased to adequately supply the laboratory. A home economics technician from Texas A & M College is advising the teachers in the college.

Pakistan wanted to know how to provide training in homemaking to women and girls in villages and communities of the whole country through the Village-Aid program in 1951. Several leaders interested in this problem spent some time in the United States studying the demonstration and practice methods used by Extension Services. Then in July, 1958 multipurpose training institutes were organized. Now six institutes in West Pakistan and three in East Pakistan offer training in agriculture and home economics. Most of these schools are operated in double capacity by representatives from Ministries of Industry, Education, Agriculture, Economic Affairs and Health with counsel from technicians with the International Cooperation Administration. Eight home economists from the United States are serving in these institutes.

After a one year course, the students are assigned to a “development area” covering several villages. Each person will serve five or six villages by, first of all, setting a personal example of better health, nutrition, cooking, sewing and homemaking practices. Then as teachers, they will give personal instruction to individuals and groups.

Teaching of improved crafts and trades for the Cottage Industries is helping to improve economic conditions in many communities. Cottage Industries provides an outlet for the sale of products produced in the homes. Many useful and beautiful articles made from cotton, silk, wool, leather, ivory, bone, wood, copper and brass are marketed in this way.

So the teaching and practical application of home economics training in Pakistan is making steady progress. The next few years should bring many more gratifying results from improved personal and family living through home economics.

“We Present With Pride”

TEACHING MARINES how to cook is not included in the plans of most Iowa State Home Economics graduates. It wasn’t on Erma Dirks’ agenda either, but she found herself at Cherry Point, North Carolina, doing just that. The Marines professed this to be the first cooking school ever offered on a military base. “I felt at home immediately because Commanding General E. A. Montgomery appointed me Mess Sergeant (Honorary) of all mess halls at the base during my stay. The stripes were enormous and inspection of all mess halls and kitchens was quite an event.”

Mrs. Dirks started her career teaching vocational homemaking in Ackley, Iowa, the fall after graduation.

Erma now assumes the role of “Martha Logan” at Swift and Company in Chicago. This job offers her plenty of opportunity for travel. As a “traveling Martha” she has worked in sales promotion in over 30 states. She conducts cooking schools and demonstrations, makes radio and T.V. appearances and works with sales personnel. Her cooking schools have varied in attendance from 50 to over 6000. These schools stress primarily how to buy, store, cook and serve meat properly.

Hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and even one landslide which have occurred during the course of her travels have never caused personal injury nor dampened Mrs. Dirks’ enthusiasm for her work.

Her extra curricular activities include picnicking, camping and gardening with her husband, an Iowa State engineering grad.

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