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Home Economics Grows With Pakistan

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THE DEVELOPMENT of home economics in Pakistan has matched the pace of the country's brief history. Until 1947, only a few educational institutions for undergraduate studies in domestic sciences existed in India. With the partition of the sub-continent of India in 1947, the facilities of even these few institutions became lost to Pakistan because the schools were located in the Indian territory. Realizing the need and importance of instruction in home and family living for women, the government of Pakistan decided to set up a program of home economics training in Karachi.

At the request of the government of Pakistan and the All-Pakistan Women's Association, the Ford Foundation made a grant to the association. This grant covered costs of setting up the college and of obtaining expert advisory services. Training facilities abroad were made available to faculty members in the field of home economics and allied subjects. The government of Pakistan has since made Grants-in-Aid to the college to meet its internal expenditures. And in 1952, the foundation stone for the school was laid by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt during her visit to Pakistan.

Now 150 girls are studying clothing, arts and crafts, family relationships, home management, foods and nutrition and child development. Related sciences, natural and social, are included in the four year program of study. Classrooms and laboratories, a library and administrative offices are situated in modern, attractive buildings surrounding the quadrangle. A nursery school is provided for training in child development and an administration building, hostel, assembly hall, housing for teachers and administrative staff and servants quarters will soon be added to the present buildings. The hostel, which will accommodate 112 girls, is due for completion in July 1958. This hostel will make it possible to increase enrollment considerably. Average age of students entering college in Karachi is 16 years. In most cases, courses in home economics have not been offered in high schools of Pakistan. This situation should be altered as more teachers are trained.
Grows With Pakistan

In classrooms and laboratories teenagers and womenfolk learn the importance of proper food preparation and storage. Food is always of prime importance in Pakistan. The women use modern refrigerators, stoves and countertops that are of the "correct" working height.

Located at Lahore, 700 miles inland from Karachi, is the College of Home Social Sciences. Degrees in home economics have been awarded from this college since 1955 for the completion of a four year course of study. Washington State College, through the International Cooperation Administration, has given guidance in the subjects taught.

In East Pakistan, 1000 miles across India from Karachi, two newly established colleges also offer courses in home economics. The Women Training College at Mymensingh is housed in a building that was formerly the residence of a Maharajah. When more equipment is available, a more complete program of training will be offered. Eden Girls College

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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.

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**“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 picnicing, camping and gardening with her husband, an Iowa State engineering grad.