

*The University of Arizona College of Agriculture and
the Arizona Historical Society Oral History Programs*

Narrator: Iracema De Sa

Interviewer: Amy Jean Knorr

Transcriber: Beth Thrall

July 12, 1993

I am Amy Jean Knorr, Professor Emeritus of Home Economics Education at the University of Arizona, College of Agriculture, School of Family and Consumer Resources. I am with Iracema De Sa from Brazil who was a student at the University in Home Economics in the 1960s. It was my privilege to be her Academic Advisor. Iracema was an Agency for International Development scholarship student and was part of the UA/Brazil project. We are in our home at 1333 Indian Wells Road, Tucson, and are going to record Iracema's recollections of her student days at Arizona and her later professional experiences in Brazil. Iracema, is it your intention that this tape and the typed transcript of this interview will be given to the Arizona Historical Society?

De Sa: I should say first of all I'm grateful for this opportunity to contribute to the history collection for the Arizona Historical Society. I am glad to be here to be interviewed by you, Amy Jean Knorr. I should say you were the best advisor that I had and to give you some information about whatever you think is interesting to the people.

Knorr: Let's begin by having you tell a little bit about your own family.

De Sa: I am really the youngest girl in my family of ten children. My father was called _____ De Sa and my mother _____ De Sa. When my youngest sister was ten, I was born. When I was ten years old she was already in

her convent - she's a nun. The other brothers and sisters were out of my home at the time so I didn't really have relationships with my brothers and sisters, but I did have with my _____.

Knorr: Very interesting Iracema. Tell us a little bit about your early schooling in Brazil.

De Sa: I had elementary school and middle school and I was graduated at what we call normal education which is a degree to be an elementary teacher so I was teaching. After that I worked for the Extension Service.

Knorr: Was it while you were working for Extension that you were chosen to come on this Brazil project?

De Sa: Yes.

Knorr: How were you chosen?

De Sa: We had a person who worked for Extension and it was the coordinator for this program and the Federal University of Ceara, which is my State, told him to choose four girls to come here to the University of Arizona to have a degree and go back to Fortaleza and start the Home Economics Department. I was one of those persons because I was already working with Home Economics and I was very much interested in learning English. I should say that I had only ten months to learn English.

Knorr: Was that just as you were getting ready to come to the United States to study?

De Sa: Yes and I was having full-time work and I had ten months just to learn enough English to come here.

Knorr: Now you did go somewhere else in Brazil to study Home Economics, didn't you?

De Sa: Yes. The project was not set yet between the _____ but it is a project between the University of Arizona and the Federal University of Ceara _____ approved, so we had to go by the University of _____ so we spent about four months there and came here by this program for which was function was going on and other people had come here too for that same program. But within a month or two we were in the Arizona program with our University of Ceara.

Knorr: So you really were only about a month at _____?

De Sa: Four months.

Knorr: Four months at _____. Now did you study Home Economics?

De Sa: We had a little bit of Home Economics there, some courses and we had mostly English, too.

Knorr: Now, you were not alone in this program. Will you tell us a little bit about the people who were also in the program with you?

De Sa: We had four. _____ and I.

Knorr: What was their background?

De Sa: Estella had second grade and _____ had graduated from the University and _____ had graduated, too.

Knorr: Were they working?

De Sa: Estella was working and had worked in the Extension Service, too some time ago. By the time she was chosen, I think she wasn't working. The two other girls were _____ was going to have another degree at University.

Knorr: Then when you finished the four months at _____ you came to the United States. Did you come directly to Arizona or did you go someplace else first?

De Sa: We came first to Washington, D.C. There we had about a month of a course in English and then from Washington we came straight to Arizona to Tucson. That was in January of 1964.

Knorr: You remember that.

De Sa: Really. I remember one thing that happened at the same time I arrived in Washington, D.C. The next day was Sunday and we had to go to Mass and we looked in the telephone book for a church - we didn't know anything about churches in Washington and we saw the Cathedral so we went to the Cathedral but we didn't know that it was a Presbyterian Cathedral, not Catholic. When we were praying there, the service was beginning and it was completely different so we went out and _____ that day, but it was an experience. Beautiful church.

Knorr: Now one of the people who worked with students in Washington was Helen _____. I wonder if you have memories of her.

De Sa: The first time I met her was in the early 1960s. When I came from the Extension Service I had a scholarship in Puerto Rico. We had an Extension and Education course which was for Extension people. We came at the end of the course working for one month, then to Washington D.C. and by that time I met her.

Knorr: When you came to Arizona, one of the people that you surely must have had contact with right away was Dr. Ruth Hall, Director of the School of Home Economics. Tell me what you remember about Dr. Hall.

De Sa: I remember her very well, she was a nice lady - very happy and had very good hospitality and she was eager to help us and always going out for parties and dinners and _____. She was very active and I remember she helped us to fill out the first papers and I remember when she said, "Eight." I thought it was "H - A, B, C, H, but it was an 8, 1, 2, 3, 4, 8." I couldn't tell the difference between H, the letter and 8, the number.

Knorr: So you really needed Dr. Hall's help to fill out the papers. When you began classes at the University, did you have to make some adjustments from school in Brazil?

De Sa: Well, I was in Education so I chose my major here for a degree in Education, too. As I had courses in Brazil about Education, I didn't have to go through some of the credits in Education. Even my Student Teaching, I didn't have to spend six weeks, I think it was four weeks - my student training. Does that answer your question?

Knorr: Yes, that's good.

De Sa: Then we had credit for our Portugese. That's why we took the Extension Course in two years and a half because we studied and took all the summer courses and we had a very _____ instant credit so we could go back and establish the Home Economics Department in Brazil that they wanted.

Knorr: Let me ask you what you remember about about some of your classes and some of your teachers. What do you remember about your Foods and Nutrition classes and probably Beatrice Kline would have been one of your teachers?

De Sa: I do remember one with Miss Kline in a laboratory when we were preparing a dinner. There were four units and in each unit we had four students and I was one of them and I was in charge for that day to set the table. I set the table and Miss Kline came and watching everyone and she looked at the table and said, "Who set that table?" I stood and said, "I did it." She said, "Well, this is not an inch - you have to put the placemats one inch from the edge of the table to the placemat." I told her, "I'm sorry I don't have the inches in my mind, I have metrical system." She laughed - it was an interesting experience.

Knorr: Many people remember about their Home Management House experiences. What do you remember about yours?

De Sa: I don't really remember anything - I remember Child Development.

Knorr: All right. Tell us what you remember about Child Development.

De Sa: One day we had just arrived and the teacher had _____ to make a report

or to beat the _____ in class. I was really frightened because I didn't have any good English - I never had - I still don't have. We had to do this so had studied it and memorized things to speak and it was fine. The other _____ I remember I had to speak it just at the beginning - the first week I had arrived in Tucson was one that we had about Home Economics methods and each one of us, we were about twenty students in the class and the teacher stood up on the stage. The stage was very high so we could see her, and she distributes the life of each one of the old Home Economics teachers and I was called as one of the first ones to go up and speak and tell history of this woman. What I did was, I climbed up the steps and I picked up the chalk and wrote on the blackboard all the words that I found that were difficult for me to speak for people to understand me and I said, "Now you read this and I'll tell you the rest of it." This way I could talk to them and explain the life of this woman.

Knorr: It seems like a very good system for communicating.

De Sa: I also remember _____ in Chemistry class. I thought that couldn't be very difficult because I had never studied Chemistry. I was surprised when we had the first _____ and I just got an "A" and I was very happy with it and also very happy when I discovered that I could make a mirror in the laboratory.

Knorr: A mirror?

De Sa: Mirror - you know when you have a solution and I don't remember any more but

we come out with a mirror. It was really interesting. It was just like discovering one part of the world and then I thought - the first person who discovered the mirror could be very happy, as happy as I am right now. I remember that my classmate next to me that same day she had a fire. I also remember the class that we had to take pictures in _____.

Knorr: Oh tell me about that.

De Sa: We had to prepare a book with the color of our hair, the color of our skin, the color of our eyes and our measurement of the bod and what kind of clothes we could wear to become well-dressed for each occasion we had to dress for.

Knorr: What occasions?

De Sa: Several occasions like breakfast, dinner, social calls - summer, winter, all seasons. That was a very interesting experience because I had to get together with my classmates and we had to find all those pieces of papers - the same color as our skin, that was difficult and _____.

Knorr: How have you used that kind of information in life?

De Sa: That was interesting because we can learn about colors and mix colors so we had a good appearance for several occasions. At that time I couldn't understand very much.

Knorr: Now you had experiences other than the ones right on campus probably. Can you tell me about some of those experiences?

De Sa: The first time that I went out - I had a free week. I went to Bisbee, a small town

and I went just for vacation and I had a very interesting invitation. One of my classmates invited me to have a leisure time in the library. In Brazil you never have leisure time in the library. So I was surprised when she said that you can find several things and that happened. I went there and it was very nice. They had all kinds of books even in Portuguese in the small town and I was so surprised and everyone was there and it was a happy time. Our librarians in Brazil don't work like this.

Knorr: How do your libraries work?

De Sa: Nowadays we have libraries in colleges and schools but at that time we didn't have much. We had _____ were very small and almost nobody would be there - it was just like a museum. Not all schools have libraries - now the University has a library that is very good but only the University students would go there. So really it was something different for me.

Knorr: Now did you do other travel?

De Sa: Oh, yes. I went to Yuma, Flagstaff, Greenlee.

Knorr: What was the purpose of these trips that you took out of town?

De Sa: Some of them were to visit the schools - elementary and high schools. I did it because my major was in Education. One of them I spent one week with a farm family that was a Mormon family. That experience was very interesting. They had seven children. It was a surprise for me because I had always learned that the Americans had only two or three children, most of them one. That was an

American family with seven children. I learned that because of their religion I spent a very nice week with them.

Knorr: What kinds of things did you do in the week?

De Sa: I did all kinds of things you can do on the farm. I went to _____, milked, we picked up strawberries, squash and it was a surprise for me, two of the meals during the day they had seven different kinds of squash. They had a girl who was a blind girl.

Knorr: Was it one of the daughters?

De Sa: One of the daughters, yes. It was just a lesson for me, I learned with her. She was so independent. She was about fifteen years old but she would go everywhere by herself. One day we were out in the field and there was a thunderstorm but she heard. She felt the lightning and then she counts, one, two, three, four and then she told me it is ten miles away from us. That was a lesson for me, I did never know this.

Knorr: Were crops grown in fields on this farm?

De Sa: Crops and rabbits and cows. They had everything. It was a small farm but they had most of the things that they needed to eat for food.

Knorr: So they could support themselves.

De Sa: Yes.

Knorr: Now most people in Education, I guess really all people in Education do student teaching. Can you tell me what you remember about you own student teaching?

De Sa: My student teaching to me was short but I had very interesting times. I met a girl who was a French teacher and I stayed in her apartment, she had this _____ and we _____ about her experiences as a French teacher and I had to discuss about my experiences and I . . .

Knorr: Did you live in the same house?

De Sa: _____ in the same house. We got along together very well and one of my best experiences was one day when I had to substitute the Mathematics teacher.

Knorr: How did you happen to substitute in Mathematics?

De Sa: They learned, I think, from my records that I was a Math teacher in Brazil. I was a Portugese and Mathematics teacher in Brazil and one day the principal came to me and said, "We are missing a teacher in this class. Would you do this for us, would you substitute?" I said, "Oh I don't know English enough to substitute in Math." When I looked at the book with the problems and solutions, so I did. That was a very nice time that I had with those children. They behaved so well and they had three per cent of the students that came from an Indian Reservation.

Knorr: What percentage?

De Sa: Three per cent.

Knorr: Had you worked with Indian students before?

De Sa: I had never worked with Indian students. They were quiet, silent, behaved very well - didn't talk much. They were very slow.

Knorr: Do you mean slow moving?

De Sa: Slow moving.

Knorr: Were there Indian students in your Home Economics classes, too?

De Sa: Yes they were in all classes. I remember a sewing class. I thought they were very good. I was impressed with the kind of audio-visual aids that you had in all of the schools. Very good _____ to work with. I remember by that time they had a kind of _____ machine that you could press a button and would come a transparent tape in color.

Knorr: Do you remember about the day that you graduated from the University?

De Sa: Oh, I remember that day. It was a really joyful day. I was so happy. I went to the Commencement with a big, black gown. We took pictures. I went with my three other Brazilian classmates and we were so happy. I thought I was a _____. Just going out there in a big place where there were all those people looking at us - we're the best, the most important person, there I was -real important that day. It was really very gay - a very nice day, I thought.

Knorr: As you look back on what you'd studied and the experience you'd had as a student at the University of Arizona, how do you think this may have benefited you in your life?

De Sa: I should complete the previous answer. I remember now that after that, when I graduated with my Masters degree and my Ph.D. degree _____ in Brazil, I didn't have the same feeling.

Knorr: Why was that?

De Sa: I don't know. Maybe I was older, I don't know, but I didn't have the same feeling of happiness that I had by that time. So now, your question is?

Knorr: How do you think your education at the University of Arizona benefited you?

De Sa: I think it was a very good benefit. It affected me very much, especially because I was an independent person and I found that I learned some of the things that you need when you live by yourself in this this country. Not only at the University but with the relationships with the families that I had. I also learned how to make life easier _____ . This was one of the main things I think.

Knorr: If you could change some of the things about your education at the University of Arizona, what would they be?

De Sa: It's not very easy to look back but by now I would cut those food labs or I would cut some of the clothing labs and I would add more work with children in Education in my Major. I felt that I didn't have enough contact with children.

Knorr: What kinds of contact would you have liked to have with children?

De Sa: Working out new methodology of teaching, new didactic way of teaching, new methods and working out the application of new audio-visual aids and preparing lessons and giving to them these lessons - just relating with them more on a one to one relationship.

Knorr: Why do you say that you would cut some of the food labs and clothing labs?

De Sa: I think because I had Nutrition before I came to this country. I had had a very good course in Nutrition and the things that I learned here were just a kind of repetition of what I had had before in my _____ school.

Knorr: Now was that true for clothing as well?

De Sa: No. Clothing - I think that in education clothing could be one major just in clothing. It's a different field and I don't think we would need in education to work so hard in clothing because we are not going to do anything with clothing with children. The way we learned, probably just one course in general historical clothing - that would do.

Knorr: Now you said earlier that you had come to the University of Arizona in order to prepare to go back to Brazil to start a Home Economics Program at the University of Ceara. What happened when you returned to the University of Ceara?

De Sa: After I graduated from the University of Arizona and got my B.S. degree in June, 1967, I went back to Fortaleza in the State of Ceara, Brazil, and worked at the Federal University of Ceara until June, 1970. Until that date, we could not do what we were supposed to do, which was to establish the Department of Home Economics because the President didn't support as the way he said he would do it and they didn't have financial support for the project. The Director of the Agriculture Department wanted to do it but he couldn't do it by himself. He was alone and we fought for two years and we couldn't do this.

Knorr: What did you do at the University in those years when you couldn't get a

department established?

De Sa: We taught some short courses, Extension short courses at the University and it was interesting because all the wives, the professors' wives, participated in short courses about all kinds of the areas that we had learned here - Nutrition, Food, Consumer Education, Home Management, Clothing, Child Development and Family Relations. We taught many short courses all the time just to show people how we could do a very good job in a Home Economics Department and many people wanted us to stay. I also have a tape - I recorded this in one of our last courses that was offering at the University. The Vice President gave a lecture about our courses and he wanted us to stay longer to see if he could work out some other way to establish a Home Economics Department, but at that time every one of us had something different in mind. One of the four got married and went to the South of Brazil. The second went to Rio de Janeiro and worked there.

Knorr: Who went to Rio de Janeiro?

De Sa: Estella _____. The third one, Fatima, came here for her Masters Degree and I was contacting the University of Sao Paulo to come here for my Masters, too. So we all had different minds on the subject and we did. Shall I continue?

Knorr: Yes. Let's go next to what you did - how you spent your time then at Ohio State.

De Sa: I was the last one of the four girls at the University of Ceara. I stayed some time there by myself and then I decided to start a Home Economics short course by

myself and I did. I decided to ask the University of Sao Paulo for a scholarship to come here for my Masters degree because the University of Ceara didn't have a scholarship any more. So I came here to Ohio State University in June, 1970 and in June, 1972 I graduated. I got my Masters and went to Sao Paulo because the University of Sao Paulo was the one who gave me the scholarship so I had to go back there and they said that I had to pay for the scholarship and I had to spend at least two years there. I wanted to go back to Fortaleza but as I was in Sao Paulo working to establish a Human Development Laboratory because my Major in my Masters was in Child Development. That was the Major that they wanted there at the University. The Home Economics Department there was starting with Dr. Everet Wilson and I was starting a Human Development Laboratory. So I spent eight years and six months in Sao Paulo instead of two years.

Knorr: So you more than paid back that scholarship did you.

De Sa: The city was Piracicaba, two hours from Sao Paulo, the capital city, but by that time I want to say that I came to realize that the ability to adjust to any situation, to feel happy regardless of the circumstances _____ tremendous strength and that I had finally, thank God!

Knorr: You surely must've had it to be able to last all those years at Fortaleza when you were trying to get a program started and were unable to and then to have an opportunity to do the thing you wanted to do at Piracicaba. How did you happen

to go back to Fortaleza?

De Sa: I did go back to Fortaleza. In January, 1981 I moved to Fortaleza. By that time the Home Ec Department was set and they asked me to come back but I had to take a test - a contest to go again to the University.

Knorr: What do you mean?

De Sa: It was a public contest to get into the University again. By this we could have security.

Knorr: Does this mean security in your job at the University?

De Sa: Yes.

Knorr: What kind of a test was it?

De Sa: It was a test in our field. in our Major, Child Development. We had to do three kinds of tests - an oral test, a written one and we had to give a lecture in front of a judge, one of the professors. They would ask questions _____. There, at the University of Fortaleza - a Federal University - I helped teaching Family Relations and Child Development courses and helped establish the Human Development Laboratory - the Nursery School. I was the first Coordinator of the Nursery School in Fortaleza.

Knorr: Now, is this in the city of Fortaleza?

De Sa: Yes, in the city of Fortelaza at the University of Fortaleza.

Knorr: From where did you draw your students? They are children?

De Sa: Yes, pre-school children. They come from families of professors and workers at

the University. Now, just nearing my retirement, I decided to start a private Child Development Center so I would have a place to work after I retire in the city of Fortaleza just near my house - two blocks from my apartment. This was with the hope of improving family and child development with scientific knowledge. Only after many years of work with people I began to learn and to see what is mankind's purpose of life in the universe and what is our _____ and how to lead our lives with consciousness and try to help people to develop their consciousness, especially in _____.

Knorr: Explain to me what you mean by developing consciousness.

De Sa: By developing consciousness I mean to developing the consciousness of health of _____ education of ecological sense of mind, body and spiritual in a metaphysical way of thinking.

Knorr: Tell us some more about the program for children.

De Sa: The best elements of our philosophy of education in our Child Development Center are the basic ones, by consciousness and nature. By conscious I have said what it is and nature is to respect the child of nature and the environment and to prepare them to live in our environment the best way they can. We have emphasized the global _____ education of the bod and mind and the holiness of life. We have faced problems really of great magnitudes with money, financial support, as well, that demand broad solutions but I realize, I believe, that this is part of our process. Our responsibility is big and I could not keep all

the knowledge that I have for myself. Today I think at the moment that my vision reveals that many people would begin to accept our methodology of education because at the beginning it was very hard for them to accept because it was something different from what they have had in other schools.

Knorr: How was it different?

De Sa: Different in purposes. We added the spiritual element. We added the consciousness to prepare children for life and to prepare children to be in the human being objective and purpose of life.

Knorr: So you began this with your pre-school children. What ages would they be?

De Sa: Yes. They are from one and a half to six years old. But I really begin with the teachers. When the teachers come to our . . .

Knorr: How do you do that?

De Sa: We had intensive training courses for them. Every fifteen days, every two weeks, we had meetings to train the teachers.

Knorr: How many teachers do you have?

De Sa: It's a very small school. It has only two teachers. One and a helper. One main teacher and the helper. We do have other activities and the children are in a group of ten, sometimes fifteen, sometimes twenty, the most thirty children. It varies, they come and go. In fact our center is much more a social, cultural center than a school in itself because we have other activities. We teach a musical instruments like flute, piano, organ and guitar for children and adults, too. We

have viola - I teach viola and we also have foreign languages, English and German.

Knorr: Are the parents of the children among the adults in your program?

De Sa: Yes, they are. It is interesting. Sometimes we have children and parents working together in the same place of music, for instance. They study piano at the same time as their children and it's interesting because the children usually go faster and sometimes the parents don't want to study any more. But we do have some social activities too during the year. We have a recital, a big party where we can show all our musical students and they play for an audience. We invite everyone to come and we go to a place where we have huge salon - a big room - and it is a really cultural activity for the city and we are known now as a cultural center. What is difficult for us is to get financial support. We have asked for some support from the government but we never get anything.

Knorr: From where do you get your support?

De Sa: We don't have any. In fact our center is a non-profitable school. Up to now, the only thing we have got was help from the German government.

Knorr: The German government?

De Sa: Yes, because I was there once. I had a scholarship to Germany. I spent three months in Germany visiting pre-schools, kindergardens and musical schools. I learned that they have a very nice music teaching there. So I saw some of their musical instruments for pre-school children. They were built by a Carl Orff.

Then when I came back to Fortaleza I wrote to the government and asked them to send to our children some of those instruments and after some time they sent them.

Knorr: Do the children pay a fee or tuition?

De Sa: We have some children pay and we have many children who don't pay. We give them just for free. The pre-school education and also the music education, too.

Knorr: When you told your friends that you were going to _____ how did they _____?

De Sa: They thought I was just out of my mind, I was crazy. The inflation in Brazil was so high no one could dare to open a school like the one I wanted, but I did and it has been about six years and we have been changing all the time because _____ in Brazil and we have _____ activities from before like swimming, _____ and we couldn't manage _____ because it was very expensive to be with teachers and swimming pools and cleaning and everything so we don't have this any more and we have also changed the places we have been in to house us. First of all we rent a house and then the rent was so high that we had to move to another house and now I decided to buy the third one. We have one that we are buying from the government and now we are having some different activities. We don't have a swimming pool any more but we have art activities and we have yoga for the children and adults and we do

have some foreign language teaching for children and adults.

Knorr: When you already had a Human Development Center at the University, why did you want to develop this one on your own?

De Sa: The Human Development Laboratory at the University was only for professors' children - the families at the University. This is about thirteen kilometers from my house and this center that I opened has activities other than the Laboratory for Child Development for children and my center is for children and grown-ups, too. We have no teaching of music at the laboratory at the University and my intention was - I think it was because when I was a child of eight or nine years old, I was a music student. I played violin, mandolin, accordion and now I'm playing piano and organ and I think music is very important for children's education. So I wanted it really to put children with music so that's why I decided to open - mainly because I was retiring. I had just retired from the University. I had to have something to work on.

Knorr: Let's go back again to think about the Home Economics program at the University of Ceara. We know that when you came back from Arizona there was no program, really. When you came back from Pericicaba, what was the program like?

De Sa: Oh, it was absolutely _____ . There were eighteen faculty members and we did have the course of Home Economics going on and we had all of the units, all the areas of Home Economics, except . . .

end of Side 2, Tape 1.

Knorr: Pericicaba?

De Sa: When I came back from Pericicaba we had about eighteen faculty members at Home Economics. We didn't have the Department of Home Economics yet. We were all under the Agricultural Economics Department.

Knorr: Why was that?

De Sa: Because we didn't have enough members of the faculty to build a Department. We had to have at least twenty members. But then, within a few months, we had those twenty members and we got to be a unit, a Department of Home Economics and we started planning our new building with all the laboratories, especially the Human Development Laboratory and I participated, I was glad to do this. I participated on this and we worked very hard and by this time now we have the new building and everything is functioning very well. We do have something very interesting now going on which is the fashion courses, the style of clothing courses and this is very important for the University because the Department of Home Economics is working together with other departments at the University like Architecture. We have a teacher from the Architecture Department working in our Home Ec Department with fashion. We had a person who came from Paris and worked several months with our teacher of the fashion course. Now I think it's going to be next year where we are going to have a Graduate course in fashion. This is very important for Fortaleza because Fortaleza is the third city

in Brazil that is doing this. _____ is a point of fashion in the whole country. And then _____ everywhere come to this occasion. The Home Ec Department is participating in this program.

Knorr: Are there many students who are enrolled in this fashion program?

De Sa: At the beginning they had about twenty students. But now I don't know how much they have in the Graduate course because at first they had only short courses and people who were in clothing business were there taking a course so they really are in business with the profession.

Knorr: So they've made connection with the businesses in the area then?

De Sa: Yes. It's a good thing - a very good thing.

Knorr: So that's one of the majors that students take. What other majors?

De Sa: We have an Education major, and Home Management and . . .

Knorr: What do the Education majors do when they graduate?

De Sa: They go to elementary schools and middle schools and teach Home Economics. And we have Nutrition and Child Development, Family Relations and Consumer Education. With Consumer Education we also have a very good program because Canada is helping us and helping the Home Economics Association with this Consumer project.

Knorr: What kind of help do they give?

De Sa: They have exchanged professors - some of them from Canada have been in Brazil several times, and we had two of them work with Child Development, too, because

at the beginning when I just came from Pericicaba, I was the Director of a project in a slum area before we had our Child Development Laboratory. We had one Child Development Nursery School in a slum area. That belonged to the University and very _____ of the University campus and I worked there for two years and after that we had our Human Development Laboratory. By that time Canada helped with some _____, some books and some exchange personnel and we also had a teacher who came and offered some courses in Child Development.

Knorr: So that gives real international flavor to your program.

De Sa: Yes, and some of our teachers had gone to Canada for exchange, too. Right now the Ex-Director of the Home Economics Department, she was the Director last year, is going have a Ph.D. in Canada.

Knorr: As you look back on the whole experience of that Home Economics program from its beginning to now, what do you think it has contributed to your country?

De Sa: I think the contribution is really big - really remarkable, but people do not recognize, mainly the government, and what is happening now, the Home Ec courses are not receiving financial support and the one in Pericicaba just was cancelled - the Home Ec course itself. A continuous function - some of the parts like the Human Development Laboratory and _____ has been continued. The Home Economics course does not exist any more. This happened with another course in Sao Paulo. For some reason we do not have much

financial help but I think we do have a strong feeling that it's going on longer.

Knorr: *Why do you think that is?*

De Sa: *I came to the conclusion lately that it is part of competition - job competition and part of the whole crises in Brazil, too, because inflation is so high that we cannot support all the things that have been good.*

Knorr: *What has happened to the program that you were a teacher in in Pericicaba?*

De Sa: *I am sorry to say that it disappeared really, it has been cancelled. Home Economics as a course does not exist any more. We do continue at Fortaleza.*

Knorr: *Why do you think you're continuing in Fortaleza when it is not continuing in Pericicaba?*

De Sa: *This is my opinion - I don't know that it is really the truth, but I think in Pericicaba we didn't start as Home Economics. We started much more a Nutrition course than Home Economics. The University of Sao Paulo didn't really want a course in Home Economics, but as they respect Dr. Wilson who is a Nutritionist, they expected her to start the course. The course had the name of Home Economics but most of the subjects were in Nutrition and they didn't start all the courses, all those subjects at the same time. In Fortaleza, I think, it was just the opposite. We spent those first two years without a Home Economics Department but just then _____ what Home Economics was. When we started the Home Ec Department, we started with all the units, all the subject matters - they were not complete but they had subjects in all areas of Home*

Economics. But in Fortaleza they had been acquainted with the business people in some ways - with health institutions and with other kinds of institutions that worked with the communities and I think they really work with the community in Fortaleza. As far as Fashion is concerned, Consumer Education and Education, and now with the Human Development Laboratory with children, in my opinion.

Knorr: And your opinion is worth having, I think. Now lets go back to think a little b it about Irocema as a person. If you had your life to live over and your career to do again, are there any changes you would make?

De Sa: I would do the same thing. Really, it was worthwhile to come to the University of Arizona. Here I have most, nice memories of my university student life.

Knorr: Well, we certainly have good memories of your group of students and you as a student, Irocema.

De Sa: Thank you.

Knorr: It does sound to me as though you are making a considerable contribution to family and to children in Fortaleza and Ceara.

De Sa: I do hope so. Thank you very much.

Knorr: It was really a privilege to talk with you in this much detail.

De Sa: Oh, it was an honor to talk with you.