



sua maior parte eram oriundas do concelho de Évora e de famílias humildes, daí, o seu desejo de concluir o Curso não para ficar em casa mas para exercerem uma profissão, como testemunham as entrevistas efectuadas a algumas das ex-alunas. Exemplos de trabalhos executados nas aulas de Oficinas e Desenho que se incluem em anexos, dão uma ideia das aprendizagens que constituíam, no seu conjunto, a base do Curso e do exame de aptidão profissional.

The Women's Training Course was introduced by the Technical and Professional Education Reform Act of 1948 in order to replace all the existing technical courses of a traditional nature specifically designed for women. Such courses were available to young women all over the country and in Evora the course was offered by the Escola Industrial Comercial de Évora (Évora Commercial and Industrial School) from the 1950/1951 academic year until 1974/1975. It was aimed at endowing young women with the skills thought to be required to make them into good wives and mothers within the context of the family; they learned domestic science and home economics, cooking, clothes-making, embroidery and infant-care, besides other subjects of a more general nature, such as Portuguese, French, Mathematics, Geography, Shorthand Typing, and there were also extra-curricular activities. The aim of this kind of training was in keeping with the overall policies of the Estado Novo (New State): the home was the sphere of action defined for young women, which was justified on biological grounds. As soon as they had successfully completed the Ciclo Preparatório (Middle School), young women could enrol on the course as students at the Industrial School. The majority of them came from the Concelho (District) of Evora, from humble families, and on completing the course they sought to get a job outside the home, as interviews conducted with ex-students bear witness. Examples of pieces of work produced in the Handicrafts and Art classes are contained in the annexes and give a good overall impression of what was taught on the course and the requirements of the professional aptitude examination.