

## ORAL HISTORY LAB (OHL)

University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez

### Oral History Interview with Sheyla A. Mercado Sanchez

#### PREFACE

The following oral history is the result of a recorded interview of Sheyla A. Mercado Sanchez conducted by Jeriel R. Candelaria Market on September 8, 2022. This interview is part of course work done by students at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez.

Readers are asked to bear in mind that they are reading a transcript of the spoken word, rather than written prose.

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Marci E. Denesiuk

Jeriel R. Candelaria Market

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#### Interview transcript

Jeriel [00.00.00]:

Good afternoon, my name is Jeriel Rafael Candelaria Mercado and in this afternoon, I'm going to be interviewing my mother. Her name is Sheyla Arleen Mercado Sanchez. Sheyla, what is your date of birth?

Sheyla [00.00.17]:

August 19, 1975.

Jeriel [00.00.22]:

What is your job?

Sheyla [00.00.24]:

Receiver payer in Cabo Rojo credit union.

Jeriel [00.00.30]:

What do you do in the cooperative?

Sheyla [00.00.33]:

I work in the cashier area as a customer service. I attend partners, I refer to accounts this collection profits, loan payments this also deposits, withdrawals, check cashing. It is a broad work, I like this to serve the public. I am sociable. I like to be well served in the places I go, so I really like to give a good service to receive it reciprocally. And I have been working with them for a year as such in banking institutions. I have been working for 16 years and I like my job, I like to give my best, a good service.

Jeriel [00.01.25]:

How good, how good to know that. So, how long have you been working?

Sheyla [00.01.30]:

As I said earlier, 16 years between financial institutions and cooperatives.

Jeriel [00.01.38]:

And your experiences as they have usually been?

Sheyla [00.01.43]:

They are very good because I like to serve the public, I like to give a good service, you know, all kinds of people, including adults, young people, children. Sometimes we are even counselors, sometimes we are psychologists. Because people sometimes arrive loaded with their problems and nothing else. In an instant of 5 or 10 minutes that one gives a service, sometimes it is more than enough for them, sometimes to vent to one and feel good and leave. They get a very different face than the one they arrived at the time and I like my work, I like what I do and giving the best of me in my work is what I always expect from me. These are my goals, always to do better.

Jeriel [00. 02.33]:

Excellent, that's great to know, then. Would you say this would be your lifelong profession?

Sheyla [00.02.42]:

Really, yes, really yes, because I am a person that likes always being with the public, customer service. I have also worked in the platform area than in the loan area. In the area that is more

hands on with the partner, as well. And I like it, I like this socializing and I like to serve them. I like that they leave with a happy face due to the service that was given was the best, that they feel pleased with the service and that they come back. What is the most important thing is that they come back and give us that covenant, that sponsorship that we need. As for the cooperative, which is what I'm currently working on.

Jeriel [00.03.34]:

Thank you so much for talking about your profession. So, let's change the subject, let's talk about different experiences in your life. It can be said that... Let's start better with your experience of Hurricane Maria that, what do you notice the most, what would you like to express about that?

Sheyla [00. 04.07]:

Well, Hurricane Maria, this was a very sad experience, very difficult. We have to realize that life changes drastically as much as in food, as well as in life. In the basic services that were scarce food, the people who were so long without light, I was almost 8 months without light, that was not easy, people who are sick who need some equipment to be connected for breathing. The line they made at the gas stations. That they were extensive and were very difficult that people had to get up early to be able to take this one that sealed 10 dollars, 15 dollars of gasoline.

When I went to the supermarket and you saw that the aisles, they were so empty, because I get a nostalgia because I would say, my God, this has been something terrible, the ports because they were not going to arrive. The, the supplies were not going to arrive. In the same way, they were taking time. The elderly were the ones who also suffered, the children...

For example, at my job. I came to work three days after María to try to help people because they could only give \$200 to each individual. Exceptions could be made when the person had some kind of disease that needed treatment. And then you give a little more money to that one, just the exceptions, people were desperate for that 200 dollars. Well, it was very little.

As for the work, we tried to do our best. They had, as we were working more or less like the third day as I mentioned before, but well. The diesel, people who are not of good feelings and good attitudes, well, they stole the diesel from the cooperative, they stole the diesel from multiple insurances and from Claro, which is the building that was nearby. Then, we were able to get the diesel supply so we could help people with more, you know, with more force, there was a lot, much volume of people.

It was sad, it was sad, it was painful. The despair of people, seeing people crying. And really one is filled with that, I who have two children that I love more than my life, we were during all that time, you know, as I say, we were more united than ever because we could not even leave the house. But seeing so many losses, so many floods. So many, so many roads, so many trees

obstructing the bridges, you know, it was a very sad experience. Let's hope it doesn't happen again.

We must take the most necessary measures, not leave everything for the last. Supply ourselves with the most necessary and always think that these are things of nature, only God is the one who disposes of these things, sometimes he gives us a lesson so that we may understand that we have to take care of our nature, take care of our lives, our loved ones, and, to achieve it a little more, we must take that into consideration and value it.

Jeriel [00.08.00]:

Definitely. All of that is very true. And then, after the whole situation, how did you see the state? Literally physically, right? What did the place look like? The area where you were, in the work area, how did you see people in general, how did all that feel?

Sheyla [00.08.25]:

Well, there was a lot. The atmosphere was very heavy, the atmosphere was very sad. As I said earlier about desperate, desperate people. There comes a time when desperation made people get a little rude, um, a little bit, um, cranky. Seeing the vegetation so destroyed is also...or like, we understood that the people would get...in this same state by which they thought that the essential things, well, they were not going to have them and obviously at the time they were not going to have it, they had to go through a process in which all this would go back to normal. No, no, it wasn't easy, it wasn't easy. But at least, well, it was a difficult situation, but we were able to get out of that thanks to God.

Jeriel [00.09.30]:

Thank you for that part. So, would you say that after all that that happened, you learned something, did you have, you know, something, did it help you, it could be said, despite all that? So horrible of what happened?

Sheyla [00.09.54]:

Well, at least I on my part can say that I learned to, what we have to do, at least we have to equip the supplies ourselves in advance and without being selfish, because sometimes one went to the supermarket and if there are two cans of ham, then just take one and leave the other for the next one, who also needs it. We must supply ourselves, equip ourselves, um, have all the things we really need for difficult times in, like, well, a hurricane, and be well forewarned, be safe in your home. Don't go and use the vehicle to go on the road, to see how the weather is, not being aware of the news, being aware of a radio, but staying at home, staying safe with your loved ones, with supplies, with everything that is really, you know, we can have things like candles, lanterns, phosphorus, canned food, everything that really, well, we can, um, have for the days, because the days that are not so good, then we can at least endure a few days.

Jeriel [00.11.20]:

And then you feel like you could be better prepared, if something similar ever happens again?

Sheyla [00.11.30]:

Well, yes, because the experience was not very pleasant and really everything took too long and now, well, with those experiences one learns a little more and one takes the best measures to be able to prevent and be aware of what is going to happen. Even if it doesn't happen, but at least we can be cautious and be prepared for that.

Jeriel [00.11.58]:

Excellent. So, changing the subject. Let's talk about the COVID situation. I want you to tell me what your opinion is about it.

Sheyla [0 0.12.15]:

Well the epidemic, pandemic, because it has already become so many things, um, we have been with this for several years and really no, it has not been easy. So many people who have passed away among children, adults, and young people. You have to have a little more awareness and the people- at first, I think they did have some awareness, but as the death rate began to decrease, well, I kind of, you know, noticed that people weren't giving them the importance that this deserves, because this is a horrible disease. And also, um, it leads to being vaccinated. It is something that really, people should respect, to respect a little more. Because they are not giving it as much importance as at the beginning. They have left, they have let this to, like, continue for so long, there is no, no control. As I have already said, last and ultimatum and definitive end and already for this to end. And we don't know until when, but it's sad, sad that all of this has happened and that we're still carrying this and we don't know for how long.

Jeriel [00.13.55]:

Do you think that this situation may improve more than what it has already improved?

Sheyla [00.14. 07]:

I think they should, that they should do their part, whether it be the government, um, each individual, in terms of those who are health care workers. We all do our part. Not only in hospitals, not only in places that are, well, from the healthcare system, but in general, in general because we all have to take care of ourselves and I really believe that it is not being done in the best way. And, although the death rate has fallen, it does not mean that we should already think that all this has already passed. Unfortunately, this still continues- has it been minimized?

Perhaps. But you should not let your guard down, you should continue to take the right and necessary measures.

Jeriel [00.15.10]:

And, going a little more personal, what has been your experience with COVID?

Sheyla [00.15.20]:

Well, my experience was very sad because on June 6, I got COVID. I don't have the specific place where I could have, um, acquired it, I think I know more or less where it was, but, well, I am not sure. This was horrible, it was a horrible two weeks locked in my house. I spent 6 days with a fever of 39.9 and 40°. I was vomiting, I was with a lot of pain in the joints, fever as I said before, headache. The taste and smell have, um, minimized, shortness of breath...

It was two very difficult weeks, it is very difficult. It's just that I had no contact with anyone at all times. As I said earlier, I was in my house locked up. Because I have to be responsible and not leave while being infected. I have 3 vaccines but, well, that doesn't make us exempt to not catch the virus. I, as a responsible person, was at all times in those two weeks in my house with my medicines, everything was sent to me through the doctor to the pharmacy and brought to me here, on the balcony of my house.

It was very difficult, it was very difficult. The first two days, I tell you honestly, I thought I was going to die, because at one point the fever was so strong that I was delusional. I would have delusions often and I felt horrible. I cried a lot, two days that, really, honestly, I thought was the end of the world. But, I am still responsible and thank God I am already a little better because I have already been two months without COVID, one is not the same person again,

The breathing, tiredness, exhaustion, pains in the body, all that is constant. It has given me a fever for the moment so far, so, um, I never think it will give me a fever again. And people really have to become aware, I assure you. Continue to use your mask, continue to use your alcohol, your sanitizer, those who want gloves should always be, um, cleaning their area, um, always distancing, um, do not forget that this is something that I really do not wish on anyone, it hit me very strong. And, really, there are people who hit them less, because, as I understand, they are, um, one, like a species of, of, not everyone gets it in the same way, I got one of the strongest of strains, stronger is the right word, and there are people who get a strain that is a little faster, and less strong.

And, once again, become aware, become aware because it has not yet left and this is something that, really, the person can die, you know? The person may die. And, in my case, I thank God that, you know, it didn't get to that, but the consequences and the side effects take time, it takes not even several months and I can attest to that because I still feel that way. That is why I urge you to continue to take care of yourself, not to let your guard down and to please continue to take the necessary measures so that this goes away with God's help once and for all and that it doesn't return.

Jeriel [00.19.18]:

I completely agree. Based on your opinions, do you think that it can get to that point that it leaves?

Sheyla [00. 19.32]:

If we all do our part and come together as a great team. Yes, it can, yes it can because we should be taking care of ourselves, and others, not because there are at the moment, well, there are already places that do not need a mask when you are outdoors, when you are in parks, I consider that it should be used at all times. Ok, if you do not have anyone nearby and you need a moment of respite because we understand that the mask is horrible, I use it for 8 hours in my work and it is horrible, um, but to become aware and take care of ourselves and I have faith that yes, that it can soon go. But we have to do it all in one unit and paddle towards the same place. Because that way, this can end, this can stop.

Jeriel [00. 20.28]:

Excellent, excellent response. So, back to your experience, how was that time of recovery? How, how extensive was it? Or how was it carried out?

Sheyla [00.20.53]:

Well, yes, because the same doctor told me that sometimes the lungs are affected a little, which is the reason for the lack of breathing, the fatigue and the exhaustion.

I, at least for my part, because, well, I was exercising, I was going to the gym and at this time I had to take a break. Now I'm starting on the walking track, I'm doing everything little by little, step by step because the recovery time is not fast. And it takes time, it takes time, but it can be done, you have to do your part and continue to take care of yourself. It is the most essential and it is what is most important.

Jeriel [00.21.36]:

Do you think that, with what you had just seen, some, some time ago, does it help you have a better understanding of COVID, such as.

Sheyla [00. 21.52]:

Really? Yes, because I lived it, I felt it, I suffered it. And I suffered from it and I suffered from it strongly, I suffered this one for two weeks that I thought that, that I wasn't going to be able to go back to work earlier, I used to believe that, that I was going to return to work later. But at least, you know, with medicines and, well, rest, which is very important the, well, the lying down because you have to be lying down and that rest, you have to rest. Above all, well, the medicines, the food. And, well, and do your part to improve yourself. And it's something that, as I understand, a person can get more than once. It is difficult to avoid it, but you can, you can if we continue, as I said, to paddle towards the one place. And in that way, in that same direction, if we all go, we can improve and we can, we can at least, for this to leave already, because this is,

really, this is not easy. It is not easy, we have been with this for too long and more continue to come out, strains, more viruses keep coming out. And we have to take care of ourselves, we have to take care of ourselves.

Um, it is sometimes, sometimes we can say that perhaps these are things that God sends to give us lessons, to, to value life, to take care of ourselves, to, to be more human, with your neighbor, with your co-worker... More human and be more united with the family. They are perhaps a warning so that we can give a healthier life, a better life. And we must take that into consideration.

Jeriel [00.23.58]:

Too true, thank you for those words. So, changing the subject, Let's talk then about abortion. What are your opinions on it?

Sheyla [00. 24.18]:

Abortion for me, um... I think it's the most horrible thing a woman can do. No, I do not sponsor abortion. Because that is, that is something that we can understand that there are many, you know, there are many situations for a person or a woman to think about abortion. It could be that, from what I have been able to hear in the news, what I have been able to read, there are people, there have been women who have been abused. There are women who want to have a baby and it comes with problems, but I consider that this is not an excuse for an abortion and we understand, right, that the situation of each one and the opinion of each one would be different.

But being a mom is the most wonderful thing God can gift you. It is a treasure to know that you have a human being inside of you who depends on you, who you feed, who you take care of, who you protect... Who you love, who you like, who you give that love to, that warmth, that embrace. One is eager for them to be born, to see how they're like. If they are okay, if they were born well, and give everything that you, you know, as a mother can give and give to the maximum because one as a mother gives their life for the children, I have two children that I love more than my life.

And if I had to be a mom again, for real, my two children are my life. And being a mother is the most wonderful thing in the world, for one to take care of that, that little beautiful thing that, that one has in their belly... And to give them everything, give them everything when they are born. It's the most, the most exciting thing. I don't even have the specific words to express, because it's the most exciting, the most wonderful, the biggest, the greatest that, that God could have given us as a woman: the joy of procreating, the joy of giving life to a human being, that's something special, that's something super exciting, and, and it's the biggest thing for me.

Jeriel [00. 26.44]:

So, it's easy to assume that you're against abortion.

Sheyla [00. 26.50]:



I am 100 percent against abortion. Regardless, I respect, as I said earlier, what has happened to, you know, depending on the case of each woman. I'm super against it because... it is like killing someone for me, for me to take their life, because since you already know that you are pregnant, there is already a little seed inside you that is procreating, that you are going to give life to, that you are going to feed, and, really, that, that it is, to take their life, even if it is small and one says that they do not feel, that it doesn't seem so- of course it does. Because since you are already given the proof that you are pregnant, there is already, already something inside you. There is already a seed, as I said, there is already something there procreating, I know there is already something there forming, so I am 100 percent against abortion.

Jeriel [00.27.46]:

Perfect. So, then, have you had an experience or know a friend, any family member who have gone through something of this nature?

Sheyla [00.28. 01]:

No. Thank God no, I haven't had that bad experience because, well, each, every human being can express what they live. But so far thank God no, I haven't had. No acquaintance or family member who has had, you know, is that- that- that they go to plan an abortion due to X or Y reason. In truth, so, so far, no, thank God.

Jeriel [00. 28.30]:

Thank you. Then, switching to a new topic, I want you to give me your opinion of domestic violence.

Sheyla [00.28.46]:

Well, domestic violence is very broad, because... that's a... It's like it's a chain of- of- which may lead to many situations and many, um, problems, depending on the case of each, of each situation. I'm very against that because there is no type of permission for you to hurt, injure or offend some other person. Because domestic violence is not only from a man to a woman, there are also women to men, which is, which is, also, um, a type of domestic violence.

I, really, because I consider that that, is something that... that wraps so many things because there are women who do not dare to speak, there are women who are silent, there are women who give a life full of suffering, of physical and emotional abuse, because people are well mistaken that domestic violence is only in physical abuse. Emotional abuse is sometimes stronger because the physical one marks you if it is erased, but the emotional, the psychological, you drag it for life.

And the cases have been very difficult because there have been women who have come out of that, there have been men who have come out of that, but there have been others who, unfortunately, the, the end has been death and this is very sad, very painful.

The detail of all that is that you have to talk, you have to talk and not hide. Because domestic violence hurts a home too much, regardless of where it is, but in the example I give in a home when there are children involved, everyone suffers. The person who is hurt suffers, the person who is hurt, who is abused, but when children, the children also reflect all that. They absorb all of it, as much as, no matter how much they want to hide or maybe as much as they want to hide, there comes a time when the children also realize that and it is sad, but sometimes learned behavior. And maybe not all, but sometimes most of the children who live that, that, that... that life of violence, of abuse, of pain, of suffering. They keep seeing it as something that's okay and they keep doing it. By, I repeat, by learned behavior, not because they want to be like this.

It is something that is sad and painful, because when I see the news and that a woman, who mostly in these cases, the news is about women, has been, um, of domestic violence. That she, she mentions it and then, um, that they sometimes think that the police are not in their favor. That, that they don't listen to them. They sometimes put a protective order, the protective order fails. And so it's a number of things that, that, that they get involved in and it's hard, it's difficult because sometimes when the person gives the alert or mentions something. And the necessary due attentions are not taken and the necessary importance is not, is not paid, things happen that are very sad, very difficult, because when the news comes out that the person was found dead in the house or that a child finds her in the house dead... You know, it's very sad, because that trauma that is going to drag that child is going to be for life, that episode, that scene, that pain is something that is truly sad.

I believe that they should be strengthened further that law of abuse, they must reinforce it, they must give it more, more effort, to give it more strength, they must take more consideration and be more alert when a woman goes to court and, and wants to give a complaint. That they take importance, that they value that denunciation, that they keep, um, you know, that they continue to be behind that complaint, that they continue to be aware, that they keep, um, I don't know, visiting the house or asking the neighbors... For them to not, not get rid of those complaints just because the person gave the complaint and as if it does not matter, so far the complaint has not happened and everything is fine and I consider that no, that's when they make the biggest mistake, because unfortunately there is when it arises. That they kill them, leave them abandoned and dead or find them in the house as I said before and it is sad because that can, I consider that that that can be avoided.

It can be avoided and there are so many programs, there are so many programs for, for the women who are, um, with children who are mistreated. And they should open those roads more and open more doors to make that agency, like, like that of Julia de Burgos and other entities more than can, well, they give it more sponsorships, that it has more people than ca, can sponsor them, that they can maintain those... Those entities may have, um, you know, more, focus, more basis to be able to, to be able to help in these cases so difficult and so sad, as they should also do for men, because not only as I said. Women are mistreated, there are men who are also mistreated, who are very few, in 1 percent of cases, but there are. And I considered that they should take action and more importance because that has, has a remedy and has a solution if they give it the necessary interest and the interest that corresponds.

Jeriel [00. 35.47]:

Excellent, so then you think that this situation of, of domestic violence, had it, has it been improved or it has been maintained or worsened? How have you seen it, more or less in your opinion?

Sheyla [00.36. 06]:

Well, in my personal opinion, I've seen that it's gone from worse to worse to worse because... there is news that keeps coming out of, of, of, well, mistreated women and I have not seen any kind of solution, I have not seen, I have not seen any improvement. I see that there is, that this has been growing, but negatively not positively and I consider the Senate, that the governor. They should give a little more importance to that because, again, not only the battered woman or man is the one who is harmed, because also the children, the family, the closest person, you know, it's something complex, something that encompasses more people and that surrounds them in this sad cycle, and, and, in that cycle that is so, so horrible, and so and so painful that it must be for the person who is going through it.

Jeriel [00. 37.11]:

Perfect, then. In this situation, do you know someone that has gone through something like that, in that, that form?

Sheyla [00. 37.25]:

To know like that, no, that is has come to me, not really, but that I have met people that have mentioned it to me, yes. And that in these moments in this 2022 that we are living, that there are still people who continue to endure. That there are still people who, just to pretend, that think about what others will say, to let themselves be carried away by the whole family and that they are going to reject them him or that they are going to reject her...

Yes, I have heard that there are still people who, at this time, hide all that because of what others might say, to pretend that they are a happy family, to pretend that everything is perfect in the marriage and it is the worst mistake they really make, because it is not worth pretending. It's not worth thinking about what they'll say. That is not worth it, because you really have to feel good about yourself, you have to do things for yourself, for your children. And, and put a stop, to say no more, it's over. I am not a puppet, I am not, um, a boxing bag, I am not, I am not anyone's toy for them to be pushing me, hitting me, screaming at me or mistreating me. I am a human being, you know, you have to value yourself, you have to love, yes, you have to love yourself. And, and give yourself the courage and importance you deserve because, really, to stay quiet, to pretend, to hide, you are doing a damage, a great damage, a horrible damage both to you and to those around you. You know, it is something that must be said, no more, enough, it's over and up until now, no more, you know, I will not allow even one more abuse, is what I think that, that, that they should do.

Jeriel [00. 39.21]:

Thank you for, for that. And have you had such an experience?

Sheyla [00. 39.29]:

No, thanks to God, no. I haven't had it and I hope to never have it.

Jeriel [00.39.34]:

Perfect. Well, then. Moving to a more general topic, more social. What do you think about situations like now recently, the increase in gas?

Sheyla [00. 39.59]:

Well, um, too high, too high. Because I have never seen gasoline reach almost two dollars. It is the consumption we need to, to transport ourselves. That by obligation you have to, have to pay it at that price because we need it for those who go to work, those who are going to study, those who are going to, you know, do their errands, um, this really was a strong impact. As well as the consumption of, of, well, at the same time that the gas increases, the light increases, everything derived from the gas and the light increases, because that, well, what you consume the oil and, that affects our pocket too much, because everything that comes in increase, well... It's like, well, how to say this, because we have to take out of the budget more than we already had stipulated to be able to pay all the necessary expenses of a household, so give one more budget to gasoline, give one more budget to the, um, to the light. And believe me no, it's not easy because you see at least you see that you pay so much for gasoline, but yields less then for a consumption of light. So then, that you're not really consuming, you know it's like that, you have to pay more, but you get a better- a worse service, a sad service, um, measly, so to speak, a service that really doesn't, isn't the best.

And it is something that as consumers hurts us, because we are the working class. And as they say, because we are going to raise the salary this and really, well, it is as if there were not, because then the expenses increase, supposedly the salary increases, but either way we are like the salary is not enough, but then the increases continue, so I consider that, that how difficult it is, difficult it is, um, to deal with that, hopefully and things will improve and at least the cost of, of oil will decrease and the situation can be resolved soon.

Jeriel [00. 42.47]:

I understand. Then do you consider yourself one of those people who consumes a lot and requires a lot of of those products?

Sheyla [00. 42.59]:

Well, the gasoline because I work in another town, gasoline is something that, that I have to consume compulsorily, because without that I will not reach my destination, which is my job.

Um, as for the consumption of the home, I consider that I am not in favor of that consumption because there is no one in the house in the time that one is working. You know that one sees

those processes against and as that there is no balance of any kind, as that everything is against that of the working class and in favor of, of which really then it is the one that stipulates these prices and this and these increases in consumption.

Jeriel [00. 43.44]:

So, speaking regarding the electric power, do you think it is a service that is not carrying out its function properly?

Sheyla [00. 43.52]:

Not at all. Not at all, because where I live the light goes out all the time. They have stipulated that the household goods at no time there are guarantees for them to claim and for them to be able to help. He considered that the low voltage that damages everything... you know, at least the functions of Luma right now, for me and for me and my personal opinion they are very mediocre because. It's okay that the former electric power authority, right? They also made their mistakes and their things. But the low voltage, the constant light, at all times the light has to be heard this returns to if they have the power coming and going that damages everything and really, because we can understand that from Maria to here from Hurricane Maria everything was very poor, everything was done, I have done nothing because right now I consider that God does not want to get another hurricane here This here is completely destroyed and the electrical power system would be null and void because all that has been has been connections. Everything that has been has been as they call it, ties and connections, that if there is a bad weather, I consider that it will not support it.

I consider that they must reinforce that, to have a better, better performance in terms of electrical energy and if one has to pay for something that is worthwhile and that really one has the security and 100% that is giving you a service, then you do not have to complain and you pay as long as it is honest and the real thing because it is not paying for a service like right now. We are paying and the service is really not the best, it is not the most favorable for us that we are the working class and those of us who consume this energy.

Jeriel [00. 46.05]:

And now, going to a topic of also great importance but that is not given such importance as it should be given, what then do you think about the conditions in which the roads and their surroundings are currently located?

Sheyla [00. 46.29]:

Well, they're really in terrible and horrible condition because the roads aren't being given, they're not given the necessary attention. They have too many gaps, breaks, cracks. Cars become disasters when one goes through because if one tries to dodge one falls like in 10 and, um... they, instead of throwing it away I consider that they should throw everything completely in the same way, what they do, is that they put it like spikes or I do not know, and that creates that then the road begins as with one, as with, as if they were one as a, as if they got up on the road and

were a rise and fall. And that, that's worse, because at some point that's going to reopen again. Likewise, the surroundings of the surroundings do not make any kind of mess. They are all always full of a lot of very tall grass.

And if they are narrow roads that mostly like the country roads, it is not only for two vehicles, it becomes impossible to dodge if someone came to real is almost in the middle of the road, because since there is so much grass, the sides one can not even dodge for debt, because one does not know if it is a ravine one does not know if the place is full, they have to give it more attention, they have to give it more attention because they actually spend money on other things.

Look, I think you should give it the necessary attention because when tourists come, when people come to visit us they see those roads and where they live in other states, other countries, on those roads are as if nothing, *licesita* without any hole, or holes or anything. Here they do not give it any kind of importance. What is the money spent on? I don't really know, but they should give it more importance. They should take more care of the roads and, and give it and so that they look good so that it calls as I say so that they attract attention and say look how beautiful the road looks. Or how beautiful the place where we are passing looks, because the first impression we give is the first thing we see and really if things are in bad condition, we will give a terrible impression.

Jeriel [00. 49.06]:

So, according to what you've said, I understand that then Workers like Public Works have not done a good job... Or if they do, well, it's not better.

Sheyla [00.49.20]:

It's not really blaming the workers because maybe they work for hourly pay. Maybe they don't have the tools, maybe they don't have the necessary equipment. They should give them the necessary equipment so that they can clean those roads so that they can give tar to all that pavement and put them in specific hours, because almost always everything is done in the morning. They close a lane at a rush hour, which is when people are starting the morning that they have to take the kids to school, that you have to go to work, they have to do their, their medical diligences and the plug is done and the traffic becomes more extensive because they take those moments and those hours so strategic and so difficult of so much traffic to clean, the fins, those that are on the side of the road. You know, I considered that they must have a few specific hours to do that and here it seems a little more. And distribute a little more employees at different points that when they make you look at the moment there is not much traffic, we are going to do it now or in this month, classes have not yet started has not yet begun the University... You know, at times that there is really not so much flow of vehicle so that there is not so much traffic and so much and so much, um, difficulty for one to be able to reach their destination in time.

Jeriel [00. 51.01]:

And then, given what I mentioned, do you think that workers or those people as such do not have enough employee personnel to be able to carry out these obligations in a better way, in a more effective way?

Sheyla [00. 51.25]:

I think if they don't have enough employees, well, they can recruit them, they can, um... Well, request more employees or if not, um, the, the same, these inmates of different corrections should give them the opportunity so that they can work on the street. Um, they can fulfill their community work because they have to fulfill a few community hours inside the prison. That would be a good chance of, of help to them because maybe they let the grass grow too much near the road, um, and I considered that, so that so much situation does not arise with that- because I have seen them, that they start little by little. And it is difficult for them because sometimes they have been cleaning for weeks because of the road, because obviously the straight is quite wide... They should give opportunity to them, to those who I mention above, to those who are prisoners so that they can meet those hours that they can go out to the street, see the world even if it is in real work work and so I return and say they can comply with the community hours that they need to make which are mandatory and what is, um, essential for when the time comes that they have served their sentence or their time in jail and so they can then, um, leave because sometimes for good behavior or sometimes for that reason for those community work, they give you more opportunities and that too I believe it can help them get out and serve their sentence faster.

Jeriel [00.53.31]:

Thanks for everything you mentioned. I mean, with everything we have talked about during this interview, what do you expect for the people who are listening?

Sheyla [00.53.48]:

I would like, I would like them to be take into consideration that if we all do our part, we can have a better Puerto Rico. Because it is the island of charm it is a beautiful, wonderful island, it has so many beautiful things and there are still beautiful, wonderful human beings and good people. But let's not damage it, let's take care of it, let's not try to protect it also because it is also our island. We have to take care of it, we have to protect it. And help, help ourselves to make a better human being to give the best of himself. To go forward to put Puerto Rico in a beautiful status in which they talk about Puerto Rico, beautiful and wonderful things. And, especially as I said before, take care of ourselves, protect ourselves, shake hands when we see things that are not good, supporting ourselves and not throwing ourselves away, it is not that each one pulls for his side. No, all united holding hands in communion and in union we can move forward and above all with the help of God.

Jeriel [00.55.14]:

Thank you for those comments. I wanted to give notice that this interview is based entirely on Puerto Rico. All the data, all the information, all that the person I'm interviewing is providing me. It's information, not only personal and general, but it is information that clearly occurred and it is necessary to give and highlight everything that is mentioned throughout the interview.

This interview as such was conducted in my own home. And, how you can listen, it was done in an in-person modality. And that the person interviewed does not have COVID. And that this was a pretty quiet atmosphere, sure.

I hope that all this has been to the good of pleasure and that everything that was carried out and all the information that could be provided can help by giving a better understanding and that it can provide help to anyone who may need it. Well, as I had previously said all that has been provided here has been in a personal and descriptive way.

But nothing, I'm going to conclude this interview. Turning again to the person I have interviewed during that time, I would like to express my sincere thanks. My sincere thanks for not only giving me the time, but also devote in terms of your explanation, your point of view and about your experiences in general in all situations that have happened not only in your life, but also in the country, as such. Which are definitely necessary for give knowledge and let other people understand.

So, nothing, I say thank you very much for your time. Thank you very much for giving me that opportunity to conduct this interview and for you to carry out a job more detailed and complete in which, as I had previously mentioned, that it can be taken out, you know, it can be a real benefit for any individual that hears this interview. Either simply because of curiosity, by learning more from this experience or simply by wanting to learn from it.

So, nothing, thank you very much for everything, for your time, and I hope that you have a very good afternoon. And again thank you for your time and for your space to explain towards me.

Sheyla [00. 59.45]:

Well I give my most expressive thanks for the opportunity that you have given me to be able to express my opinion, to be able to give my point of view, to express myself. I hope it has been pleasing, I hope it serves as some kind of stimulus or example. And thank you very much for the opportunity, I come back and repeat and have a wonderful and excellent afternoon. Thanks a lot.

Jeriel [01.00.16]:

Thank you, you too.