



## Balik Paaralan: The DECS Home-Study Program\*

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\*based on an interview with Mr. Jose D. Gonzales Jr., Principal, RESPSCI

### The Birth of RESPSCI

The Balik-Paaralan Program (BPP) or the Back-to-School Home Study Program of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) is one of the programs offered by the Rizal Experimental Station and Pilot School of Cottage Industries (RESPSCI) which was officially created with the approval of Republic Act No. 4571 on June 19, 1965. The Act provided for "the establishment, operation, and maintenance of an experimental station and pilot school of cottage industries in the Municipality of Pasig, Province of Rizal." However, it was only on November 18, 1974 when the school started its formal operation after negotiations with the Pasig Municipal Council. It temporarily stayed at the Pasig Central Elementary School until it transferred to the Mutya ng Pasig Complex at the start of the school year 1975-1976. In March, 1979, the RESPSCI moved to its present site in Maybunga, Pasig City.

Owing to its unique programs and services, the RESPSCI, unlike the regular public secondary school, is under a principal directly supervised by the Office of the Regional Director of the DECS-NCR.

### Its Objectives

Envisioned to serve purposes beyond those of the ordinary public high school, the RESPSCI aims to accomplish the following objectives:

1. To achieve the objectives of the secondary education program in accordance with the Revised Secondary Education Program (RSEP1973) and the New Secondary Education Curriculum (NSEC)
2. To make the school program relevant to the national development goals by

- a. preparing secondary school students for vocational proficiency in order to become productive citizens after they leave school
  - b. training the nation's manpower in the middle-level skills required for national development
  - c. training out-of-school youths and employable adults for vocational proficiency to enable them to engage in small scale home industries
  - d. **giving opportunities for school leavers to enter the mainstream of formal education through the "Balik-Paaralan Program"**
3. To prepare individuals for employment in industry as craftsmen and eventually become managers or entrepreneurs

### Its Program Offerings

During its initial years of existence, the RESPSCI offered five courses addressing the needs of a wide variety of clientele who wish to undergo formal school training and prepare themselves either for further education or possible employment after graduation. Such programs are as follows:

1. Revised Secondary Education Program
2. New Secondary Education Curriculum
3. Technical-Vocational Education Program
  - a. Apparel and allied products
  - b. Food and beverages preparation
  - c. Metal craft
  - d. Technical drafting
  - e. Short-term computer course
4. Technical-Vocational Training for the Handicapped
5. **Balik-Paaralan Project**

The number of RESPSCI programs, however, was reduced when the DECS instituted the Secondary Education Development Program (SEDP) in 1989 replacing the RSEP and the NSEC. A further reduction took place when the two technical-vocational programs were fused

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