The automotive industry in Bangladesh is the third largest in South Asia. Bangladesh has a few large car plants which assemble passenger cars from different world famous branded companies, as well as commercial vehicles from Hino, Tata and many others. Motorcycles, auto rickshaws and the locally designed Mishuk three-wheeler are manufactured in Bangladesh.

The program was implemented mainly under the non-agro segment of the PACE project with the financial and technical support by Palli Karma-Shayak Foundation (PKSF). Rural Reconstruction Foundation began a value chain project named “Development of Small Automobile Industry in Jashore” in Jashore district from February-2018. Automobile industry is a largest industry sector in Bangladesh is playing a vital role in national economy. About 6-8 lakh people are employed directly and indirectly in this sector. Automobile sector of Jashore is in the 2nd position in the country. But they use traditional tools & equipment to produce the automobile product. Considering this issues, RRF has undertaken to implement this project aiming to create demand of update tools, equipment & spare parts related to the automobile sector & ensure its availability, to develop skills man power, Ensure availability of modern engineering service through a modern training institute and to develop skill manpower and create Safety working environment through service promotion. This Automobile project has been phased out in January 2021 according to the agreement with PKSF.

This is RRF Automobile Now; making it own

Rural Reconstruction Foundation started full-length self-financing Automobile Training & Service Center in Chachra, Jashore with past experience of project implementation from February 2022. The objective of the Automobile Training & service center is to create a promising future and employment in this sector. Automobile workshop has thrived in Jessore over the past two decades, making it profitable for those involved in the business. But the industry still uses old manufacturing technology and ordinary equipment e.g. Hammers, chisel, welding machines etc. Entrepreneurs and workforces of these workshops do not have any formal institutional training. Also, there is no modern training center for automobile engineering and mechanical. So like other stakeholders, RRF also decided to continue this project with its own funding. RRF Automobile Training & Service center has the modern equipment and automobile engineering to develop this sector. To make it modernize RRF purchased own land, is developing modern infrastructure, installing latest equipment, servicing center, training venue, dormitories and other necessary works. Still this Automobile center is under construction.
Opportunities of employment is created under this project.
People uses modern vehicle which needs servicing and repairing with the modern equipment.
So customers get high class servicing.
By using modernizing equipment in the Automobile industry standard servicing can be ensured.
Making a skilled workforce. Workshop owners and workers can receive training from here and after learning they can use this knowledge in their workshops also improves their standard of living.
Modernization in the Small automobile industry helped to upgrade the lives of the people who were working in this industry.
One-stop service center for the customer. they can get all the service under one shed.
Challenges

- Lack of outreach to the targeted people who can receive training from here.
- In a result running a training course is getting difficult because of the lack of participants.
- Maintaining safety during work is another challenge. Need to increase awareness can be a solution.
- Lack of skilled staff and modern technologies are still there. We need to improve in this sector also.

Enamul Haque shared that: First I was a service holder in private company. But I always have a passion to start my own business. My family owns a property in Upasahar Babla Tala which we rents out as a work shop. I decided to run the rented workshop myself. So I made RAM in the old way. It costs a lot of money. After that I saw an advertisement which was a leaflet of a Valuchain development project titled “Development of small scale automotive industry in Jessore”. Seeing that, I started contacting the local automobile training and service center. Decided to take one day orientation at CCTS. After the training, the thought set up the workshop came in my mind in my own place. I tried to make it a modern workshop. I named his workshop Jessore Auto and Servicing Centre. I am the one who started servicing with modern machines in jashore. Successfully I am running my workshop journey and my workshop income is increasing day by day. I hoped to invest more in the workshop. I am determined to organize the workshop as a common service.”