

Automechanic Training College and Workshop Dhaka, Bangladesh

Key Program Parameters

- Provide marketable International standard automechanic skills to disadvantaged and marginalised youth through professional vocational training.
- At capacity the School will provide training for 100 students per year with 200 students living at the School each year as they complete the 2-year program.
- Build the sustainability of the School and its programs through successful management and marketing of the Automechanic Workshop service to the public.
- Provide a viable model, which can be replicated around the world.

The School provides comprehensive training and hands-on experience in auto mechanical service, repair, panel beating and painting to disadvantaged and poverty stricken youth in Dhaka and surrounding rural areas. The students complete an initial year of training before moving to the Workshop as apprentices receiving a living wage. Training will be provided by international standard mechanics who build local capacity towards the installation of local trainers. Students also receive intensive English tuition and a business training module to prepare them for the workforce and management of their finances and businesses.

The project is structured as a social business with the Workshop covering the costs of the School. The establishment of the project has been managed by the Executive Director of Grameen Australia, with the partners being Grameen Shikkha, SK Dream Japan and Rangs Workshop Ltd.

Capital Committed: US\$1.95m with breakeven expected to occur in 2017.



Students meeting Prof Yunus for the first time to receive his insights for their future

Achievements to Date

- Initial workshop and school premises secured from Rangs, a key local business partner and one of Bangladesh's largest conglomerates with expertise in the automobile sector.
- Negotiation management over established workshops underway to provide sustainability and financial security for the training School.
- Employment of the Head Teacher, a qualified International automobile mechanic and teacher.
- Initial curriculum completed with ongoing development as the project progresses.
- 100 applications received with 10 students selected. The application process included challenging practical and written tests and formal interview.
- Criteria for selection included that they be from the very poorest backgrounds with family income below USD 150/month (USD 5/day)
- School commenced on 16th January 2015, with a formal Official Opening to be held in late 2015 with Professor Yunus as guest of honour alongside the Ambassadors of Japan and Australia.
- The second intake of 17 students commenced their studies in January 2016.