

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Automobile Repair & Maintenance Industry plays a vital role in the national economy. Total number of garages in this sector recorded in the report published by the Department of Census and Statistics for the year 1999 is 5,514. Garages have been included under the Trade and Services Sector in that report.

Out of the entire vehicle population, more than 50% is motor cycles and three wheelers. Repairs of motor cycles and three wheelers take place mostly at home or in domestic garages. Number of workers in such garages may normally be less than three and they go uncounted as they are not registered in any survey.

The major proportion of the labour force in the Automobile Repair and Maintenance Industry comprises of craftsmen and unskilled helpers. According to the survey for preparation of the VET plan it has been ascertained that 71% of the labour force comprises of craftsmen and unskilled helpers. Also it was noted that 96% of this labour force is male and only 4% are female. Majority of employees are in 20-40 years age group. It has also been noted that the average age under each category of occupation in this trade has come down over the years and comparatively the total labour force is younger than what it was five years ago.

Majority of the craft grades were GCE O/L qualified. There were also a significant number of GCE A/L qualified persons in the trade. Most of the employees in the supervisory level had passed their GCE A/L. There were diploma holders and graduates also among the employees

Another notable feature in this industry was that a higher percentage (58.11%) of the numbers had no formal training from any recognized institution either from the public sector or private sector. The training that they had received was the on the job training. At least 60% expressed their desire to undergo training of some form or the other. This is a healthy sign for further improvement of this sector.

Training

The training providers to the industry are the National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority (NAITA), Vocational Training Authority (VTA), Department of Technical Education and Training (DTET), National Youth Services Council (NYSC), Ceylon German Technical Training Institute (CGTTI) and a number of institutes in the private or NGO sector.

The University of Moratuwa, Peradeniya, the Open University of Sri Lanka, the Institute of Engineering Technology – Katunayake (former TTI) and Sri Lanka Institute of Advance Technical Institute provide training mainly to middle and senior management grades. In addition to the above mentioned institutes there are some private institutes who conduct various in house training programs.

In addition to the provision of training, NAITA conducts National Trade Test (NTT) in four trades related to the Automobile Repair & Maintenance Industry, to recognize the skills of the informally trained craftsmen.

A person who wishes to achieve further vocational qualification in the field of specialization, can enter the NVQ system conducted by the government or private training institutions.

Automobile Repair & Maintenance Industry has faced a threat of rapid changes in the technological developments. The training providers are not sufficiently prepared to overcome the problems emanating from these phenomena. This survey has found that there is mismatch of skills & knowledge in the area of new technology, and modern equipment and tool handling.

Qualification upgrading of the sector as a whole is very essential to suit the changes in the global development of Automobile Engineering sector. Therefore, training institutes must be technologically geared for the regular updating of their curricular to meet the current requirements. The other factor that needs attention is the exposure of trainers to the technological trends taking place in the industry. Unless the trainers themselves are provided regular short term upgrading courses, mismatch in training provision and industry requirements will continue to be present.

Taking these factors into consideration, it becomes imperative that sufficient arrangements are made for training organizations to ensure the supply of quality craft and other personnel needed for the industry

The training plan that has been developed aims to providing training, to meet the industry requirements identified through this survey.