



ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 2024 - FEBRUARY 2025

PROJECT TITLE

POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH VOCATIONAL TRAINING (PRVT)



Implemented by:
**Parkari Community
Development Programme (PCDP)**

Supported by: PCDP-UK



INTRODUCTION

In many rural areas, young people face significant challenges due to limited access to education, employment opportunities, and vocational training. Without marketable skills, they often struggle to break free from the cycle of poverty, leading to economic hardships and social vulnerabilities. The Poverty Reduction through Vocational Training (PRVT) project was designed to address these issues by equipping rural youth with technical skills that enhance their employability and economic stability. By providing hands-on motorbike repairing training, entrepreneurship workshops, and community mobilization initiatives, the project aimed to empower young individuals, enabling them to secure sustainable livelihoods. Through this initiative, the Parkari Community Development Programme (PCDP), with support from PCDP-UK, has worked to bridge the skills gap and create new opportunities for youth in underserved communities.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Motorbike Repairing Course

The project successfully organized a three-month motorbike repairing course for sixteen boys from rural communities. The training was designed to provide both theoretical and practical knowledge, ensuring that participants gained hands-on experience in repairing and maintaining motorbikes. Essential tools and spare parts were provided to facilitate effective learning, enabling students to work on real motorbike repair scenarios.

The course was conducted by experienced trainers who guided the students through various mechanical and electrical aspects of motorbike repair. By the end of the training, the students demonstrated significant improvement in their technical skills, equipping them to start their careers in the field.

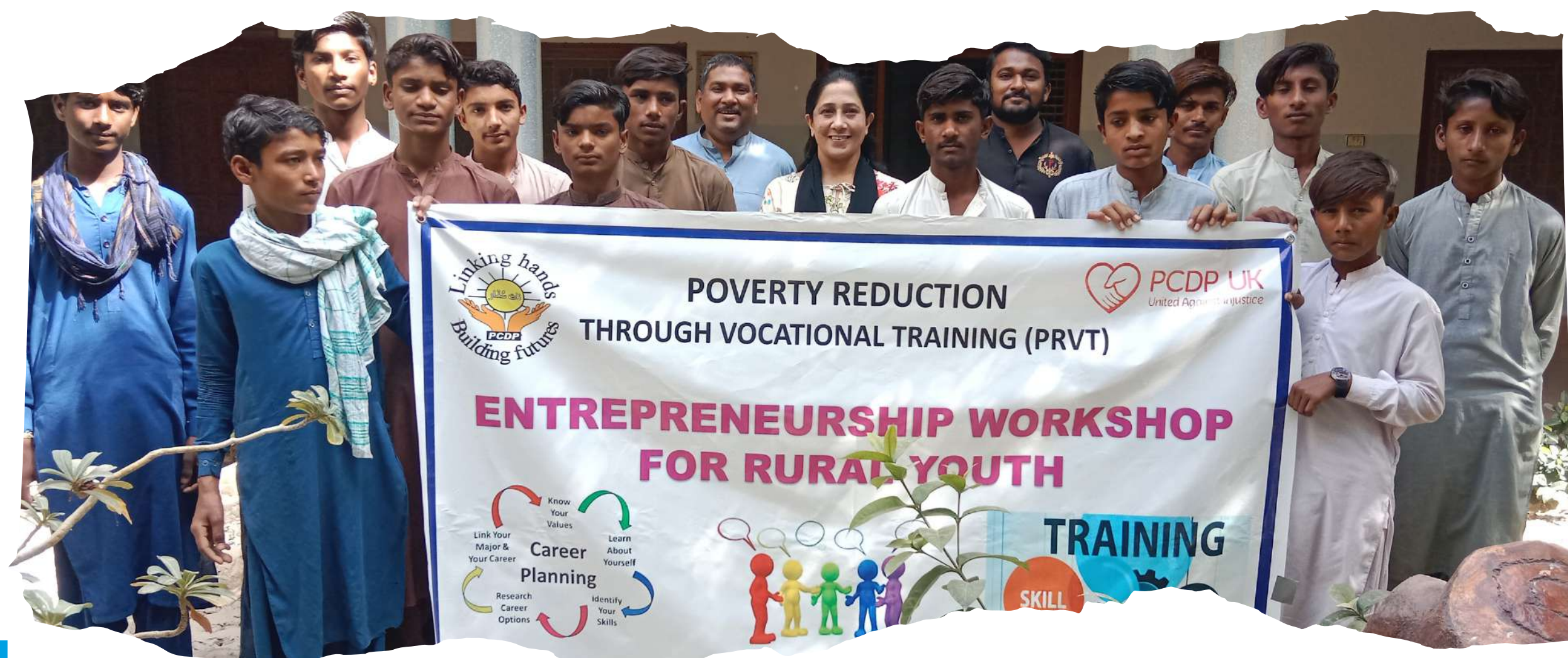
Provision of Tools and Equipment

To support the sustainability of the training and to enable the students to start working immediately after completing the course, sixteen motorbike repairing tool kits were purchased. These tool kits included essential equipment such as Torque Wrench, screwdrivers, Socket Wrenches, and Hex Key Set, among other necessary tools. Each student received a complete set of tools along with a bag, ensuring they had the resources needed to either start their own business or secure employment at a workshop. The provision of these kits was a key factor in bridging the gap between training completion and practical application in the field.



Entrepreneurship Workshop

An entrepreneurship workshop was organized for the students attending the motorbike repairing course. The workshop covered essential business skills, including financial literacy, customer management, business planning, and marketing strategies. The goal of the workshop was to equip students with the knowledge and confidence to start and manage their own businesses effectively. Experts in small business development facilitated the sessions, providing practical insights on managing finances, setting up workshops, and building customer trust. This initiative aimed to encourage self-employment and long-term financial independence among the students.





Graduation Ceremony and Certificate Distribution

A formal graduation ceremony was held to celebrate the successful completion of the motorbike repairing course, marking a significant milestone in the journey of the trainees. The event brought together students, their families, trainers, community leaders, and representatives from PCDP, creating an atmosphere of pride and encouragement. During the ceremony, students were awarded certificates recognizing their training achievements, serving as an official validation of their newly acquired technical skills. These certificates not only enhance their credibility when seeking employment but also boost their confidence in starting their own businesses.

A key highlight of the ceremony was the distribution of motorbike repairing tool kits to each graduate. These tool kits, carefully assembled to include essential equipment, symbolize the practical support provided by the project in ensuring that students are well-equipped to begin their professional journeys. By receiving these tools, graduates were empowered to either set up their own workshops or seek employment with established mechanics, allowing them to immediately put their skills into practice.

The ceremony was also an opportunity to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the trainers who played a crucial role in shaping the students' technical expertise. Community elders and leaders shared words of encouragement, emphasizing the importance of skill development as a pathway to economic empowerment. Parents and family members expressed their gratitude, highlighting how this initiative has given their children a valuable opportunity to build a sustainable livelihood.

By celebrating the graduates' accomplishments in such a meaningful way, the event reinforced the importance of vocational training in transforming lives and strengthening communities. The enthusiasm and motivation displayed by the students underscored the project's success, inspiring more youth to consider vocational education as a viable means of improving their futures.



Community Mobilization and Awareness Sessions

Community mobilization was a fundamental component of the project, ensuring that members of PCDP's Community Development Network (CDN) were actively engaged and informed about sustainable development initiatives. Twelve awareness sessions were conducted at the village level to educate community members on the importance of unity through PCDP's community sustainability model, which is based on a structured membership approach. These sessions also highlighted livelihood opportunities available through vocational training and skill development. By fostering a deeper understanding of these initiatives, the sessions encouraged greater community participation and support for the project, reinforcing the value of technical education and skills development as essential tools for poverty reduction.

In addition to the awareness sessions, twelve community mobilization meetings were held with local community leaders at the unit level. These meetings focused on discussing strategies to promote sustainable community development, expand vocational training opportunities, enhance employment prospects, and strengthen local leadership in economic development. The active participation of community leaders played a crucial role in mobilizing resources and creating a supportive environment for vocational training graduates, ensuring that they could successfully transition into the workforce and contribute to their communities' economic growth.



Cluster-Based Conference

A cluster-based conference was organized to bring together stakeholders, including local leaders, training graduates, government representatives, and community members. The event served as a platform to discuss challenges and opportunities related to sustainable development. A key strategy of PCDP for fostering community sustainability is the Pariwari Membership approach, which aims to unify the Parkari people through a structured membership system. During the conference, new Pariwari members were officially welcomed and received their membership cards. It was a proud and significant moment for them, as they became part of a larger family committed to collective growth and empowerment.



Participants shared their experiences, explored potential opportunities for collaboration, and discussed strategies to enhance access to technical education for young people. The conference also showcased success stories from the training program, inspiring more youth to engage in similar initiatives that contribute to long-term community development.



Publication of IEC Materials

To enhance awareness and disseminate information on sustainable development initiatives, Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials were developed and distributed. These materials included brochures, posters, and booklets that highlighted the benefits of vocational training, success stories, and guidelines on starting a small business. The IEC materials played a crucial role in spreading awareness beyond the immediate project participants, reaching a broader audience within the community.

Capacity Building and Field Consultation

To ensure the effectiveness of project implementation, refresher courses and monthly meetings were conducted with unit and cluster-in-charges. These training sessions focused on enhancing leadership skills, project management techniques, and strategies for community engagement. Personnel received capacity-building training to improve their ability to mobilize communities and support project activities effectively.

Field social mobility activities, including in-person meetings, focus group discussions, mobilization visits, transect walks, and direct observations, were carried out by field staff. These activities helped in assessing community needs, gathering feedback, and ensuring that project interventions were aligned with the realities on the ground. The dedication and hard work of the field staff were recognized through remuneration, acknowledging their significant contributions to the project's success.



IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

The project led to significant outcomes in terms of employment generation, community awareness, and leadership enhancement. All sixteen students who completed the training received tool kits and are now equipped to start their own motorbike repair businesses or secure jobs in the field. Community awareness was enhanced through twelve awareness sessions and twelve mobilization meetings, which contributed to increased understanding and engagement in sustainable development initiatives. The cluster-based conference facilitated discussions among key stakeholders on challenges and solutions for long-term development. Moreover, ongoing training and refresher sessions strengthened the capacity of community leaders and field personnel.



CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

The project faced certain challenges, including limited financial resources for expansion, difficulties in reaching remote areas, and the need for continuous mentoring support for graduates. However, valuable lessons were learned. Strong community involvement and continuous support enhance the sustainability of vocational training programs. Future initiatives should include mentorship programs and small business startup support to ensure long-term success for beneficiaries.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND WAY FORWARD



To further enhance the impact of the project, it is recommended to expand the vocational training program by increasing the number of beneficiaries and introducing additional skill-based courses. Follow-up support should be provided to graduates through mentorship programs and small grants to help them establish their businesses. Community engagement efforts should be strengthened by continuing mobilization activities and involving more local leaders. Collaboration with local businesses, government agencies, and NGOs should be enhanced to create employment opportunities for trained youth.



CONCLUSION

The PRVT project has made significant strides in empowering rural youth through vocational training and community mobilization efforts. The initiative has successfully equipped sixteen boys with motorbike repairing skills, provided necessary tool kits, and engaged the broader community in sustainable development efforts. Going forward, expanding training opportunities and providing continuous support to graduates will be crucial for sustaining the impact of the project.

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