

THE ADVANTAGES OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Starting your own business as an entrepreneur can be one of the most rewarding experiences that life offers. It is also important to keep a certain level of perspective about this process. Although a rare few can experience immediate success with their efforts, it is more accurate to describe entrepreneurship as the planting of an acorn.

You must first place the acorn in the ground to get the journey started. You will need to invest time and money into the resources which are necessary to help that seed grow. There are no guarantees that you will get results, but nothing will come your way if you don't pay attention to this tree that you want to grow one day.

If the tree begins to rise from the soil, then all of the hard work and patience you put into that process will feel like it was worthwhile.

Some acorns refuse to turn into trees. Squirrels might dig up your idea and steal it for themselves. Most entrepreneurs find themselves trying something new within 1-3 years because their business doesn't turn into a successful enterprise.

The advantages and disadvantages of entrepreneurship attempt to balance the risk of a new idea with the rewards that happen if it takes off. "Starting a company extracts so much energy and conviction that not having a clear-cut goal and meaningful mission can hamper your success.

Do you have what it takes to become an entrepreneur?

1. BEING AN ENTREPRENEUR MEANS YOU GET TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS.

When you decide to follow the life of an entrepreneur, then you are giving yourself permission to pursue what you are passionate about in life. You get to be the person who is making every decision, pulling all of the strings as you push forward with this

opportunity. You get to use your strengths and skills to make a real difference in your life and those in your community.

Some people stay in a bad job because they need to “pay their bills.” Some might “work for the weekend” as a way to justify their decision to stay in a place where they are miserable. It isn’t always easy to be an entrepreneur, and you might not ever get rich, but there is a better chance that you will be happy.

2. ENTREPRENEURS GET TO DISCOVER WHO THEY REALLY ARE.

Most entrepreneurs break out of the 9-5 daily grind because they become dissatisfied with office politics, the barriers to promotion, or an uninspiring workplace environment. You might be encountering all three of those issues right now. When you decide to follow a path toward your own business, then the only obstacles that get in the way are the ones that you allow to remain.

3. ENTREPRENEURS GET TO DICTATE THEIR OWN SCHEDULE (TO A CERTAIN EXTENT).

If you like the idea of putting in 40 hours per week and then coming home to relax at nights, weekends, and holidays, then being an entrepreneur is probably not the best choice to make. You are going to be working 20-40 extra hours each week if your goal is to be successful with your startup venture. “If you’re starting something on your own,” “you better have a passion for it, because this is hard work.”

Where you gain an advantage is in the flexibility of your time commitments. You are not stuck trying to manage a 9-5 schedule. If you need to take a day off, then you get to do so. Want to take a vacation? Then make the time to go. You don’t report through a chain of command any more.

4. EVERY DAY IS DIFFERENT WHEN YOU'RE WORKING AS AN ENTREPRENEUR.

Embracing entrepreneurship means that you are going to have a schedule that is different every day. There are no consistent routines in this world. Some experts would even say that if you experience two similar days in a row, then you should re-evaluate your business model. You have to stay hungry for every opportunity that comes your way. If you become complacent for any reason, then someone will take your place. This advantage can ensure your creativity.

5. THERE ARE FEWER RESTRICTIONS TO WORRY ABOUT IN THE WORLD OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP.

When you begin to work for yourself instead of for someone else, then the independence that this experience creates is something that cannot be duplicated by any other professional opportunity. You are in total control of your destiny. You might earn more than some entrepreneurs, but less than others. Some people might work more than you, but others could be working less.

There are numerous structural options to consider too. You might choose to work from a home office. A shared office space might be a better solution for you to use.

Entrepreneurs can work from a coffee shop, at the beach, or while taking a road trip with their family.

6. YOU CAN STILL EARN WHAT YOU ARE WORTH AS AN ENTREPRENEUR IN YOUR EARLY DAYS.

Many entrepreneurs like to bootstrap their ideas to help get them off of the ground. You might struggle to find investors for your idea, so any profits you earn go back into the company instead of your checking account. The reality of entrepreneurship is that a rational salary is always possible if you are willing to structure your finances around your basic needs. Your discipline in selling will lead you closer to the Promised Land.

“Selling is not a pushy, winner-takes all, macho act,” advises Subroto Bagchi, co-founder of Mindtree. “It is an empathy-led, process-driven, knowledge-intensive discipline. Because, in the end, people buy from people.”

7. ENTREPRENEURS CAN CHOOSE TO PURSUE ANY IDEA THEY WANT.

The only thing that limits your pursuit of a dream as an entrepreneur is your imagination. If you think there is an idea that you can follow, then, go after it with everything that you have. Build that app which you believe could change the world. Tell your story by writing an autobiography. Sell your artwork online, even if everyone tells you that artists don't succeed. Follow your instincts, and there is an excellent chance that a good idea will seem like a great one to all of your future customers.

“In the age of transparency, honesty, and generosity, even in the form of an apology, generate goodwill,” advises Alexander Asseily, founder of Jawbone. It's okay to be embarrassed by the first rehearsal of your product. Entrepreneurship succeeds more often if you're willing to launch early instead of waiting until it is too late.

8. YOU GET TO BE MORE INVOLVED WITH YOUR COMMUNITY AS AN ENTREPRENEUR.

The flexibility in your schedule that you can have as an entrepreneur is an excellent way to become more involved in your community in a variety of ways. You can serve as a Youth Mentor and as a coach in youth sports, or find other ways to tie your volunteer work to your efforts with a new business. These opportunities will help you to network with others, promote your personality and brand, and build your business while you are helping others at the same time.

“My advice is to focus on the importance of forging a long-term relationship, whether with colleagues, partners, or customers,” said Sheila Lirio Marcelo, founder of Care.com. “It is often easy to get caught up in short-term decisions.”

9. ENTREPRENEURS GET TO BE THE INNOVATORS OF THEIR INDUSTRY.

Entrepreneurship succeeds when you get to put an idea out to your targeted demographics before anyone else. Bringing something first to the market is an exciting adventure. It may not always be a story that ends in wealth, but it is one of the absolute joys of this process. You get to be on the forefront of problem solving for your community. You're turning your passions into revenues. It doesn't take a lot of money to get started either. As long as you have the drive to be an entrepreneur, then you can innovate.

"If you tune it so that you have zero chance of failure, then you usually have zero chance of success," advises Reid Hoffman, co-founder of LinkedIn. "The key is to look at ways for when you get to your failure checkpoint, you know to stop."

10. Every day is exciting in the world of entrepreneurship.

No one can say it enough times. You are going to be working your butt off when you decide to become an entrepreneur. There will be 18 hour days that you'll need to endure. The work will be harder and longer than anything you can remember doing in your life. Holidays are just another working day. Want to have a weekend free? Then you'll be working from 3am to 11am so that you can spend the afternoon with your family.

The amount of excitement that you will experience during these long days is fuel that keeps you going. You never really know what to expect when you wake up in the morning. There are new problems to solve, customers to meet, and ideas to pursue.