

Chapter 1

### What Is an Entrepreneur?

One who creates a new business in the face of risk and uncertainty for the purpose of achieving profit and growth by identifying opportunities and assembling the necessary resources to capitalize on them.

## **Characteristics of Entrepreneurs**

- Desire for responsibility
- Preference for moderate levels of risk: risk eliminators
- Self-reliance
- Confidence in their ability to succeed
- Determination
- Desire for immediate feedback

- High level of energy
- Future orientation
- Opportunity entrepreneurs
- Necessity entrepreneurs
- Serial entrepreneurs
- Skilled at organizing
- Value achievement over money

### **Characteristics of Entrepreneurs**

- ✓ *Opportunity entrepreneurs:* start businesses because they spot an opportunity in the marketplace.
- ✓ *Necessity entrepreneurs:* start businesses because they cannot find work any other way.
- ✓ Serial entrepreneurs: repeatedly start businesses and grow them to a sustainable size before striking out again.

### **Characteristics of Entrepreneurs**

- Entrepreneurs tend to exhibit:
  - A high degree of commitment
  - Tolerance for ambiguity
  - Creativity
  - Flexibility
  - Resourcefulness

**Bootstrapping** is a strategy that involves conserving money and cutting costs during start-up so that entrepreneurs can pour every available dollar into their businesses

- A willingness to work hard
- Tenacity

## Entrepreneurship

One characteristic of entrepreneurs stands out: diversity!

• Anyone – regardless of age, race, gender, color, national origin, or any other characteristic – can become an entrepreneur (although not everyone should).

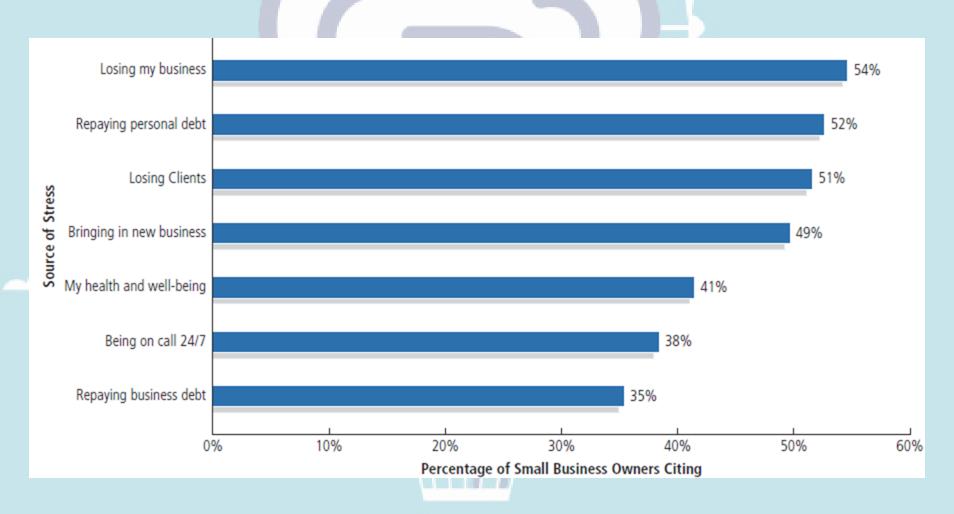
## **Benefits of Entrepreneurship**

- The opportunity to:
  - Create your own destiny
  - Make a difference.
  - Reach your full potential.
  - Reap impressive profits.
  - Contribute to society and to be recognized for your efforts.
  - Do what you enjoy and to have fun at it.

### Drawbacks of Entrepreneurship

- Uncertainty of income
  The entrepreneur is the last one to be paid, as employees must be paid first
- Risk of losing your entire investment
- Long hours and hard work
- Lower quality of life until the business gets established
- High levels of stress
- Complete responsibility
- Discouragement

## Sources of Stress for Entrepreneurs



## Feeding the Entrepreneurial Fire

- ✓ Some of the most significant factors that have led to this age of entrepreneurship include:
- Entrepreneurs as heroes (as model to follow)
- Entrepreneurial education

Universities and colleges should include it in course study

# Feeding the Entrepreneurial Fire

- Demographic and economic factors
- ✓ Many people start their business in age of 24-44.

## Feeding the Entrepreneurial Fire

Shift to a service economy

In US service sector (low start-up cost) produce 80% of the jobs and 64% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product)

#### GDP:

Gross domestic product (GDP) is the standard measure of the value added created through the production of goods and services in a country during a certain period. As such, it also measures the income earned from that production, or the total amount spent on final goods and services.

# Feeding the Entrepreneurial Fire

Technology advancements

Technology has changed the ways to do business, such as computers, voice mail, e-commerce, fax,.....

Independent lifestyle

The Internet (www), cloud computing, and mobile marketing

## Feeding the Entrepreneurial Fire

#### Cloud computing:

Internet-based subscription or pay-per-use software services that allow business owners to use a variety of business applications, from database management and inventory control to customer relationship management and accounting

- Young entrepreneurs
- Women entrepreneurs
- Minority-owned enterprises
- Immigrant entrepreneurs
- Part-time entrepreneurs

- Home-based businesses
- Family businesses
- Copreneurs
- Entrepreneurial couples who work together as co-owners of their businesses.
- Corporate castoffs
- Corporate dropouts
- Retiring baby boomers

#### Corporate castoffs:

Those individuals who are unemployed and are highly educated and skilled, and had corporate executive jobs.

#### • Corporate dropouts:

Executives who leave the corporate to pursue their own dreams and aspirations by starting their own businesses.

#### Retiring baby boomers

Baby boomer is a group of people who were born between 1946 and 1964.

Labeled so because during this period of time, there was a statistically significant increase in the number of births that occurred.

During the 22-year period, 76.4 million people were born (one quarter of US population)

### The Power of Small Businesses

- Small businesses (employs less than 100 people).
  - Employ 49.2% of the nation's private sector workforce
  - Create more jobs than big businesses
    - Created 64% of net new jobs over the last decade
    - 5% of small companies create 67% of net new jobs in the economy
- Small businesses also produce 46 percent of the country's private GDP and account for 47 percent of business sales.



### The Power of Small Businesses

• Gazelles are small companies that are growing at 20 percent or more per year with at least \$100,000 in annual sales; they create 70 percent of net new jobs in the economy

## **Putting Failure into Perspective**

- Entrepreneurs are not paralyzed by the prospect of failure.
- Failure: a natural part of the creative process.
- Successful entrepreneurs learn to fail intelligently.

## **Avoiding the Pitfalls of Small Business Failure**

- Know your business in depth
- Build a viable business model and test it
- Develop a solid business plan
- Understand financial statements
- Manage financial resources
- Learn to manage people effectively
- Set your business apart from the competition
- Maintain a positive attitude

