# **INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMPUTER APPLICATION & MANAGEMENT**



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• Schemenner, R.W., Huber, J.C. and Cook, R.L. (1987), "Geographic Differences and the Location of New Manufacturing Facilities," Journal of Urban Economics, Vol. 21, No. 1, pp. 83-104.

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# CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION: IMPORTANT DRIVERS OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

# S. BALASUBRAMANYAM ENTREPRENEUR & PAST PRESIDENT PEENYA INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION BANGALORE

# **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this paper is to bring into the light the entrepreneurial practices and its mechanisms, study the role played by creativity and innovation in this process and over and above determining the techniques and methods to encourage creativity and innovation. According to the Schumpeter (1934), the entrepreneur is the prime mover in economic development, and his function is to "innovate", or "carry out new combinations". Further, he opines that an entrepreneur needs to be "creative, and should be able to take risk". While Peter Drucker states that, an entrepreneur is "someone who maximizes his business opportunities". These two statements clearly stress on the fact that business prospects are at the core of entrepreneurship. The entrepreneur must be creative and innovative to recognize the actual entrepreneurial possibilities and duly employ them to his advantage. In this context, Innovation starts with creativity and that is why they are treated as two sides of the same coin. For conversion of a business idea into a lucrative marketable concept, it is important to maintain balance between creativity and innovation.

#### **KEYWORDS**

Creativity, Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneur, Entrepreneurial Process, Innovation, Small Enterprises.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

"Capital isn't so important in business. Experience isn't so important. You can get both these things. What is important is ideas. If you have ideas, you have the main asset you need, and there isn't any limit to what you can do with your business and your life".

Harvey Firestone

"Creative thinking is not a talent, it can be learnt. It empowers people by adding strength to their natural abilities which improves teamwork, productivity and where appropriate profits".

#### Edward de Bono

here is no scarcity of definitions of entrepreneurship and entrepreneur. After reviewing countless definitions of entrepreneurship, we can say that those terms, which explicate entrepreneurship, are ambition, perseverance, intuition, creativity, responsibility, commitment, but above all: passion. An entrepreneur can emerge because of any of the following: his own wish, knowledge acquired in product/service, opportunities offered by others, circumstances forced upon him, and support extended by the governments and so on. Nevertheless, an entrepreneur is a person who invariably looks for new business prospects, analyze, and develop ideas, and starts working on how to make them sustainable profitable concepts. Such conceptualized business ideas can produce the preferred end results provided the entrepreneur firmly believes in it. Throughout the journey from ideation to translation of a business idea into a reality, entrepreneur has to be creative and innovative and be ready to make sacrifices and accept the risks and uncertainty that the work involves.

Creativity is the development of ideas about products, practices, services, or procedures that are novel and potentially useful to the organization and Innovation is the implementation of a new or significantly improved product, service, or process that creates value for business, government, or society.

Thus, creativity and innovation play an unambiguous role in the course of identifying problems, methods of solving them and use of opportunities that firms face every day. The entrepreneur who continuously creates new ideas and innovates will be able to meet the challenges of changes and needs of modern society.

# **ENTREPRENEURIAL PRACTICE AND TRAITS OF ENTREPRENEUR**

Small enterprises and entrepreneurs play a role of immense importance in the socio-economic growth of any nation because of their inbuilt strengths not only to create new jobs but also in creating and maintaining the welfare of the society. Nationally and globally, the small enterprises account for a remarkable 90% of all industries. Unquestionably, it is the driving force behind a large number of innovations, contributing a significant share to the respective national economy through employment creation, investments and exports. Encouraging entrepreneurship is seen as a means of releasing currently unused chances that are inherent in individuals, rejected technologies and combinations of resources.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

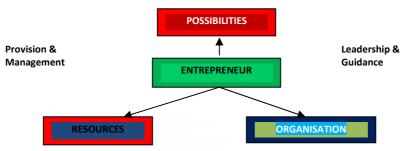
Entrepreneurship is all about the identification of an opportunity, creation of new organization, and pursuing new ventures (Carton et al. 1998). There are many studies done on entrepreneurship like external skills required in entrepreneurs. For example, Schumpeter (1934) has stated that an entrepreneur needs to be innovative, creative, and should be able to take risk. Wickham (2006) has also supported his views. Pajarinen et al. (2006) have said that entrepreneurs with higher academic background are more innovative and will use modern techniques and models to do business. Barringer and Bluedorn (1999) have described entrepreneurs as individuals who can explore the environment, discover the opportunities, and exploit them after proper evaluation.

From the above narrative of Entrepreneurship, it can be inferred that an entrepreneur should possess qualities such as higher academic qualification, creativity, innovativeness, risk-taking ability, responsibility, skill to discover opportunities, etc. Expertise to recognize the market potential is the focal point in entrepreneurship. The job of entrepreneur is not only to look into people's needs but also investigate whether there are areas in which these needs have not been met or have been met in a manner that is not acceptable to consumers<sup>6</sup>. Entrepreneur should recognize his opportunity in this. An individual or an entrepreneurial team can participate in implementation of perceived business opportunity.

Various researches show that an entrepreneurial team contributes to the growth and development of business and an individual entrepreneur contributes only to the creation of means of livelihood. Therefore, entrepreneurs who plan to develop a large and profitable business must constitute a team of managers who will help them do that

Entrepreneurship is a combination of the following terms: new, innovative, creative, flexible, dynamic and prone to take risks. Entrepreneur, in addition to the resources, possibilities and organization, is a constituent of the entrepreneurial process. Figure below shows the importance of entrepreneur in the entrepreneurial process.

#### FIG. 1: COMPONENTS OF ENTREPRENEURIAL PROCESS



From the figure above it can be observed that entrepreneur is the core of the process. His expertise lies in linking the other three components of this process and such link results in the creation of value. Therefore, entrepreneur connects possibilities (through their identification in the market and the methods by which they can be used) with the resources (through their provision and the most efficient use) and organization (by directing activities towards the goal of the organization).

The extent to which an entrepreneur will be successful in managing the entrepreneurial process depends on the ability of entrepreneur to meet the exact needs of such entrepreneurial process. His competency is reflected through characteristics, such as self-confidence, independence, acceptance of risk, creativity, innovation and vision, which are relatively recognized with each entrepreneur.

Creativity and innovation occupy a special place among the traits of an entrepreneur. The entrepreneurial process begins by identifying and evaluating entrepreneurial opportunity, as well as by development of ideas in order to take advantage of the perceived business opportunity. Perceiving new business opportunities is often the result of knowledge and expertise of entrepreneur, emerging by the combination of education and experience, and the experience results from various business events. Creating and generating new ideas makes a creative process and the result of this process is invention. Thus, the invention is the design of a new idea, the creation of a new possibility for new or improved product or process. Creativity is a fundamental qualification for innovation, i.e. innovation is the change of creative ideas in a specific product/service/process.

Template below shows a relationship between invention, innovation and entrepreneurship. Through application of creativity and innovation, it is possible to solve problems and use possibilities which companies face. Therefore, creativity and innovation have a key role in the entrepreneurial process. Competitive advantage can be derived through the process of innovating and creating new products/services/processes or improving existing ones. The ability of entrepreneur is reflected in the fact that he uses changes creatively to change obstacles and constraints into advantages. It also shows the relationship of entrepreneur and his creativity and innovation, on one hand, and his expertise and knowledge of business, on the other hand.

Expertise and Knowledge of Business

Large
Creativity and innovation

Entrepreneur

Manager
Administrator

Small

By looking at the above template, it can be inferred that an individual who wants to become an entrepreneur must possess, in addition to a high level of proficiency and understanding of business, high creativity and innovation.

## **CREATIVITY AS A TRAIT OF ENTREPRENEUR**

Creativity is the ability to create something new and valuable by the art of imagination, which also dominates among the above characteristics of entrepreneur. In the definition of entrepreneurship, the emphasis is on creativity, which includes the following:

Creation of new business ventures and organizations;

Creation of new combinations of goods and services, production methods, markets;

Creative identification of new and existing opportunities;

Creativity in using new and existing opportunities.

Creativity is usually defined as a continuous search for new and represents a forerunner to innovation<sup>16</sup>. This trait of entrepreneur is related to the insight of problems and finding suitable solutions. An individual is creative when looking at things in a new dimension. Creativity can also be defined as the ability to connect previously unconnected thoughts or ideas in a whole.

Therefore, only a creative entrepreneur can identify new business opportunities and chances, and he has skill to use them properly. In the words of Niccole Machiavelli "Entrepreneurs are simply those who understands that there is a little difference between obstacle and opportunity and are able to turn both their advantage"

More than ever before, it is increasingly accentuated that creativity depends on knowledge, intellectual abilities, personal characteristics and motivations. These four causes are also the qualities of a successful, creative entrepreneur. According to Guilford<sup>19</sup>, creative people think divergently, i.e. aspire to create more ideas and look for more ways to solve a problem.

A successful entrepreneur must constantly look for changes, play a little, know how to accept the risks and constantly introspect 'What if'? In this way, entrepreneurs develop skills, acquire knowledge, and stimulate motivation, what is the key to entrepreneurial success.

#### STAGES IN THE CREATIVE PROCESS

Four stages of Creativity, according to Graham Wallas, are preparation, incubation, illumination and verification as illustrated in Fig. below.



#### **PREPARTION**

The first phase of creativity is preparation. It implies preparation in two senses. The primary sense involves the necessity to develop, over time, the basic skills and expertise that one must have to function creatively within the specific domain<sup>22</sup>. For example, if machine design is your forte, and you want to design new kinds of machines, you must first know a great deal about the medium itself and the principles behind the functioning of machine components and parts. The next, the situation-specific kind, involves a period of concentrated mental activity. Suppose there is a problem to be solved, collect information that bears on this problem and on how identical problems have been solved in the past, and actively think, feel or see your way to a solution. In simple words, half the problem is solved if it is clearly-defined. Problem solving creatively requires a clear insight of the problem but, for better focus, entrepreneur needs to know what he wants, which is the ultimate goal. Experience, knowledge and information that entrepreneur has are very important for a satisfactory understanding of the problem, for only thus he can identify the right opportunity and create idea(s).

#### **INCUBATION**

Incubation is the next stage, and it involves taking time out from the problem. The presumption is that while your conscious mind takes a rest from active work on the problem, your subconscious still works behind the scenes to find a solution. And again and again, that does seem to happen. Pieces of the conundrum that you might not have consciously thought about during active preparation sometimes come together during this period. It is as though the intense work in the preparation phase has activated all your mental faculties, including subconscious ones, and the search for a creative breakthrough continues in some unconscious brain process.

#### ILLUMINATION

Illumination, once it follows incubation, typically arrives as a flash of insight — the famous Aha! Or Eureka, Experience! What comes might not be the absolute answer. Rather, it might be part of the answer, or maybe just a clue regarding where to find the answer.

#### **VERFICATION**

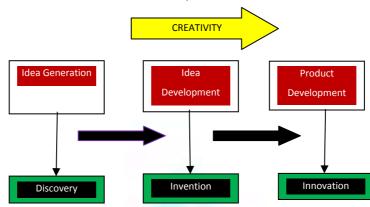
Verification, the last step of the process, involves either intellectually fleshing out the illumination in detail, or testing its practicality. In some situations you might create a model, a sketch, a "breadboard" circuit, or in the case of a work of art, the work itself. Some of the time this verification process is trivially simple; at other times it involves a great deal of work. This phase is most critical, because it is very important to test the viability of the solution itself. If the conclusion is that the solution is unfeasible, it is better revert to the preparation stage.

## INNOVATION AS A TRAIT OF ENTREPRENEUR

A very important task of entrepreneur is to create value in the market. Value is created through the production of new products/services/processes or improving existing ones, which is achieved through the process of innovation and learning. Therefore, it can be said that innovation is a very important factor of vitality and competitiveness of companies and thus a very important characteristic of entrepreneur<sup>22</sup>. Therefore, innovation is a different way of performing some production, service, entrepreneurial activity that has not previously been seen in the market, whether a completely new product/service/process is being produced or an existing one is being improved. Or else, Peter Drucker defines innovation as 'a specific tool of entrepreneurs, the means by which they use changes as favourable opportunities for some other business or service activity, so entrepreneurs must create something new, something different, they must change or transform value'.

Creativity and innovation are the same is a myth even though they are frequently used as synonyms. Creativity refers to the process of idea generation. Innovation refers to the whole end-to-end process<sup>24</sup>. Therefore, it is necessary to distinguish between the process of creativity and the innovation process. In fact, both are connected with each other. The process of innovation is built and based on the creative process. Specifically, the idea is created within the creative processes. New idea that has not yet been realized, that is, turned into a new product/service/process is an invention. In the process of innovation, a new idea is turned into a market product/service/process. Figure below shows the process of creation and development of a product.

#### FIG. 4: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INVENTION, INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP



According to Drucker, changes are the basis of all innovation. Therefore, the point is to find new products/services/processes, i.e. create an innovation so as to be 'a mighty weapon' in the armoury of entrepreneur while dealing with changes. Through innovations, entrepreneur is trying to use changes and turn them into advantages that can be a source of high profits. However, high profits are generated only in the beginning and for a short period. After some time, income decreases due to the appearance of imitators of innovation. For these reasons, an entrepreneur must permanently, constantly, continuously search for new ideas which he will successfully turn into innovations, and which will bring him monetary rewards.

#### TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

Creativity and innovation help to recognise the value of an entrepreneur. Schumpeter believes that entrepreneur is altogether a person of different mould. Therefore, entrepreneur is an individual who is exceptionally talented, competent to introduce novelty, prepare creative ideas, initiate and use changes. There was a time when it was believed that entrepreneurs were born, so an individual who had a good 'sixth sense' could carry out such work. However, the situation has changed today. Today's entrepreneurs grow into professionals who rely more on their knowledge, earned by education, and intellectual abilities they possess. There are three types of skills that prospective entrepreneurs must master before they enter the business project: technical, human and conceptual<sup>25</sup>. Entrepreneurship can be learned like any other profession, if these skills are mastered. Therefore, entrepreneurs are not born, but created.

Creativity is an indispensable quality of any successful entrepreneur. With creativity the entrepreneur has different understanding of a situation due to varied form of ideas being generated. Creativity can be unlocked and creative innovative ideas generated using any of the techniques. The tools and techniques described in this paper have been derived from many other books, Internet sites, and from my own experiences. They are as follows:

## **BRAINSTORMING & TYPES OF BRAINSTORMIG**

Linus Pauling<sup>26</sup> once indicated that the only way to have a creative idea is to find as many answers as possible and to weed out what is inappropriate. We call it "brainstorming"! Brainstorming is a conference technique of attacking problems or creating original ideas by intense discussion and spontaneous idea exchange within a group. Unless it is well structured and expedited, a group action session will end up being a meaningless exercise. The four rules to be followed when using brainstorming are: a). No criticism is allowed by anyone in the group, b). "Freewheeling" is encouraged, c). Quantity of ideas is desired, and d). Combinations and improvements of ideas are encouraged, Over and above, Brainstorming sessions should be fun with no one dominating or inhibiting the discussion.

#### **VALUE BRAINSTORMING**

This is a form of brainstorming where the process is the same – but the content is different. Instead of brainstorming issues, problems, or potential solutions, the group brainstorms a list of things they value. Examples might be honesty, trustworthiness, recognition, etc.

# **ROLE STORMING**

Role Storming is an evolution of Brainstorming, where you take on another identity to view problems and solutions from a different angle. People may be less embarrassed and more willing to provide unusual or 'off the wall' ideas if they are presented by an anonymous person.

#### **REVERSE BRAINSTORMING**

This is a group method for obtaining new ideas while focusing on the negatives; and, criticism is allowed as against the brainstorming approach. The technique is based on finding fault by asking the question "in how many ways can this idea fail". With the fact that it focuses on the negative aspects of a product or service, the group's morale must be maintained in the right direction. This approach can be effectively used before other creative techniques to stimulate innovative thinking. This method produces some meaningful results as it is easier for an individual to be critical about an idea than to come up with a new idea.

## **BRAIN WRITING**

It is a silent, written generation of ideas by a group of people. The participants write their ideas on a special card, which circulates within the group (usually six members). Each group member generates and writes down three ideas during a five-minute period. The card then is passed on to the next person, who writes down three new ideas and so on, until each form has passed all participants. Examples of this include, Brain writing pool, Brain writing 6-3-5, etc.

## **CREATIVE ORIENTATION**

A method which includes: bionics as a skill that is based on the application of knowledge on living systems for solving social problems; searching for solutions according to self-learning principles, starting from the existing product where possible changes in such product are examined; searching of examination area starting from observation of the current situation from another angle.

#### SYSTEMATIC STRUCTURING

It is a method which includes: morphological box, specifying the list of attributes, showing problem fields, sequential morphology, decision tree, process analysis. These methods try to encourage intellectual and rational thinking of people.

#### **CREATIVE CONFRONTATION**

A method which includes: classic synectics conference, visual synectics, analysis by stimulating words, BBB method, Force-Fit game, Tilmag method, method of integration of adjacent fields, semantic intuition, forced connection, and catalogue technique.

#### SYSTMATIC SPECIFICATION OF PROBLEM

This method includes progressive abstraction, epistemological analysis, K-J method, N-M method, hypothesis matrix, relevance tree.

#### **GORDON METHOD**

The Gordon method involves developing new ideas when the individuals are clueless of the problem. This implies that group members do not know the exact nature of the problem. The entrepreneur begins by mentioning a general concept associated with the problem. The group thereafter responds by expressing a number of ideas. This can then lead to a concept being developed, followed by related concept through guidance by the entrepreneur. At last the actual problem is revealed, enabling the group to make suggestion for the implementation or refinement of the final solution.

#### **CHEKLIST METHOD**

In this method, a new idea is developed through a list of related issues or suggestions. The entrepreneur uses a list of questions or statements to guide the direction of developing entirely new ideas or focusing on specific idea areas.

#### **FORCED RELATIONSHIPS**

The steps followed in the process are: a). Isolate the elements of the problem, b). Find the relationships between these elements, c). Record the relationship in an orderly form, d). Analyze the relationships to find ideas, and lastly, Develop new ideas from these patterns.

#### **PARAMETER ANALYSIS**

Parameter analysis involves parameter identification and creative synthesis. Parameter identification analyzes variables in the situation to determine their relative importance. The relationship between parameters that describe the underlying issues is examined and a solution developed (creative synthesis.)

#### **CONCLUSION**

An individual who pilots and navigates the entrepreneurial ship is called an entrepreneur. He is oriented towards the future that has a vision and develops ideas, tries to foresee events and changes and use them in an adequate manner. He is able to recognize the opportunity that others have not noticed or have not given importance to. Entrepreneurs more or less differ among themselves, but successful entrepreneurs are branded by dedication, involvement, motivated team, transparency with stakeholders, hard work, strict monitoring of set procedures, determination and flexibility. Every entrepreneur must relentlessly innovate if he wants to survive in extremely competitive world today. Entrepreneur sees the possibility of innovation in changes and, therefore, it is said that entrepreneur is bound to stay alive with changes. Therefore, in order to take benefit of changes, entrepreneur must be creative and innovative. Creativity is the improvement of ideas about products, practices, services, or procedures that are novel and potentially useful to the organization. Innovation is the execution of new ideas at the individual, group, or organizational level with the sole objective of putting the idea into use. Individuals who do not have expressed these two characteristics of entrepreneur can improve them by techniques for development of creativity and innovation

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