

Role of Entrepreneurs

Entrepreneur plays a vital role in economic development. Entrepreneurs serve as the catalysts in the process of industrialization and economic growth.

Technical progress alone cannot lead to economic development, unless technological breakthroughs are put to economic use by entrepreneurs.

Some of the roles of entrepreneurs are:-

1. Capital Formation:

Entrepreneurs mobilize the idle savings of the public through the issues of industrial securities. Investment of public savings in industry results in productive utilization of national resources. Rate of capital formation increases which is essential for rapid economic growth. Thus, an entrepreneur is the creator of wealth.

2. Improvement in Per Capita Income:

Entrepreneurs locate and exploit opportunities. They convert the latent and idle resources like land, labour and capital into national income and wealth in the form of goods and services. They help to increase net national product and per capita income in the country, which are important yardsticks for measuring economic growth.

3. Generation of Employment:

Entrepreneurs generate employment both directly and indirectly. Directly, self-employment as an entrepreneur offers the best way for independent and honorable life. Indirectly, by setting up large and small scale business units they offer jobs to millions. Thus, entrepreneurship helps to reduce the unemployment problem in the country.

4. Balanced Regional Development:

Entrepreneurs in the public and private sectors help to remove regional disparities in economic development. They set up industries in backward areas to avail various concessions and subsidies offered by the central and state governments.

Public sector steel plants and private sector industries by Modis, Tata's, Birla's and others have put the hitherto unknown places on the international map.

5. Improvement in Living Standards:

Entrepreneurs set up industries which remove scarcity of essential commodities and introduce new products. Production of goods on mass scale and manufacture of

handicrafts, etc., in the small scale sector help to improve the standards of life of a common man. These offer goods at lower costs and increase variety in consumption.

6. Economic Independence:

Entrepreneurship is essential for national self-reliance. Industrialists help to manufacture indigenous substitutes of hitherto imported products thereby reducing dependence on foreign countries. Businessmen also export goods and services on a large scale and thereby earn the scarce foreign exchange for the country.

Such import substitution and export promotion help to ensure the economic independence of the country without which political independence has little meaning.

7. Backward and Forward Linkages:

An entrepreneur initiates change which has a chain reaction. Setting up of an enterprise has several backward and forward linkages. For example- the establishment of a steel plant generates several ancillary units and expands the demand for iron ore, coal, etc.

These are backward linkages. By increasing the supply of steel, the plant facilitates the growth of machine building, tube making, utensil manufacturing and such other units.

Entrepreneurs create an atmosphere of enthusiasm and convey a sense of purpose. They give an organization its momentum. Entrepreneurial behavior is critical to the long term vitality of every economy. The practice of entrepreneurship is as important to established firms as it is to new ones.