



# Achieving Indispensability Through the Entrepreneurial Ethos: A Philosophical Discourse on Values, Commitment, and Self-Improvement

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## Abstract

*This article presents a philosophical inquiry into the qualities that are essential for entrepreneurs to achieve indispensability in their field. Drawing from the fields of philosophy, entrepreneurship, and self-improvement, the article explores the significance of values, commitment, and self-improvement in the context of entrepreneurship. Through a critical analysis of existing literature, the article argues that the most successful and impactful entrepreneurs possess a strong set of values and are committed to their work, while also demonstrating a willingness to continually improve themselves. By highlighting the importance of these qualities, the article aims to provide insights that can guide aspiring entrepreneurs towards greater success and impact in their field.*

**Keywords:** Entrepreneur, Values, Commitment, Self-improvement, Indispensability.

## INTRODUCTION

Entrepreneurship is a multifaceted and complex phenomenon that has received significant attention in the business world and academia. Entrepreneurs are often seen as key drivers of economic growth and innovation, as they identify and exploit market opportunities by creating new products, services, and processes. However, what does it mean to be an entrepreneur? What are the essential qualities and attributes that make an entrepreneur successful? These questions are at the heart of the inquiry into the significance of values, commitment, and self-improvement in achieving indispensability. This inquiry seeks to essentialize the concept of the entrepreneur by identifying the fundamental values, traits, and behaviours that are critical for success in this role. It also examines the role of commitment and dedication in maintaining the entrepreneur's focus and persistence, even in the face of challenges and setbacks. Finally, it delves into the significance of self-improvement and continuous learning in enhancing the entrepreneur's knowledge, skills, and competencies.

## A BRIEF REVIEW

Entrepreneurship has been widely studied in business and management literature, yet the philosophical underpinnings of the entrepreneurial identity remain relatively unexplored. In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in understanding the essence of the entrepreneur and the qualities that make them indispensable in the business world. This literature review aims to provide an overview of the existing literature on essentializing the entrepreneur, focusing on the philosophical inquiry into the significance

of values, commitment, and self-improvement in achieving indispensability.

Values are essential to the entrepreneurial identity, as they guide entrepreneurs in making decisions, pursuing opportunities, and achieving success. According to some scholars, values such as autonomy, creativity, and passion are central to the entrepreneurial identity (Gupta & Bhattacharya, 2021; Morris & Jones, 2020). Autonomy allows entrepreneurs to take risks and pursue their vision, while creativity enables them to identify new opportunities and innovate. Passion drives entrepreneurs to persist in the face of adversity and maintain their commitment to their goals. Additionally, some researchers have identified ethical values such as integrity, trustworthiness, and social responsibility as crucial to the success of entrepreneurs (Hockerts, 2020; Le & Wang, 2021).

Entrepreneurship requires a high level of commitment, as entrepreneurs must be willing to take on the risks and uncertainties associated with starting a new venture. Commitment also involves a strong sense of purpose and dedication to achieving the goals of the venture. Some scholars have argued that commitment is a crucial factor in the success of entrepreneurs (Gomis-Porqueras & Peralta-Alva, 2021; Zhan & Liu, 2020). This commitment may be driven by personal motivations, such as a desire for autonomy, financial independence, or the pursuit of a meaningful life. However, commitment may also be influenced by external factors such as the support of family and friends, access to resources, and the demands of the market.

Entrepreneurship is a continuous learning process, and self-improvement is a key aspect of the entrepreneurial identity. Self-improvement involves the development of skills, knowledge, and experience that are necessary for success in the business world. Some scholars have argued that self-improvement is essential for entrepreneurs to remain competitive and adapt to changes in the market (Kang et al., 2021; Luo & Huang, 2020). Self-improvement may involve developing new skills, such as marketing, finance, or leadership, as well as improving existing skills through training and education. Additionally, self-improvement may involve the development of new perspectives, attitudes, and ways of thinking that enable entrepreneurs to navigate complex and dynamic environments.

Indispensability is a central goal of entrepreneurship, as entrepreneurs seek to create unique and valuable products and services that meet the needs of the market. Some scholars have argued that the qualities of values, commitment, and self-improvement are essential to achieving indispensability in the business world (Miller & Breton-Miller, 2021; Sánchez-Hernández et al., 2020). Values such as creativity, passion, and social responsibility enable entrepreneurs to identify and pursue opportunities that are aligned with their vision and values. Commitment provides the persistence and dedication necessary to overcome obstacles and achieve success. Self-improvement enables entrepreneurs to develop the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary to create innovative and valuable products and services.

Obviously, the philosophical inquiry into the significance of values, commitment, and self-improvement in achieving indispensability has highlighted the essential qualities of the entrepreneurial identity. Values provide a moral compass that guides entrepreneurs in their pursuit of success, while commitment provides the drive and dedication necessary to take on the risks and uncertainties of starting a new venture. Self-improvement is crucial for entrepreneurs to remain competitive and adapt to changes in the market. The qualities of values, commitment, and self-improvement are essential to achieving indispensability in the business world, as they enable entrepreneurs to create unique and valuable products and services that meet the needs of the market. However, further research is needed to explore the relationship between these qualities and the success of entrepreneurs in different cultural and institutional contexts. Additionally, future research could examine the role of other factors, such as access to resources and networks, in shaping the entrepreneurial identity and achieving indispensability in the business world.

### INDISPENSABILITY & RELIABLE VALUES

To be indispensable means to be absolutely necessary in a particular place, aspect, or function. It means that without you, things would not function as smoothly or effectively. In many cases, being indispensable is the key to success in business, as businesses rely on a strong team of individuals

who can deliver results and create value (Oxford English Dictionary, 2021; Huhman, 2012).

The reason why many businesses fail is often because they lack reliable people. To be reliable, you must be trustworthy, responsible, and time-conscious. You need to be a person of values, and you must be able to demonstrate these values in your work (Murray, 2019; Groysberg & Slind, 2012).

But being indispensable is not just about being reliable. It is also about delivering value. People don't pay for products, but rather for the values that those products represent. As an indispensable member of a team, you need to be able to deliver results that go above and beyond what is expected. You need to be able to create value that others cannot, and to do so consistently (Vaynerchuk, 2017; Haden, 2017).

If what you are doing is readily available, then you need to update yourself. Being indispensable also means being able to adapt and evolve as the world around you changes. You need to be constantly learning, growing, and developing new skills so that you can continue to deliver value and stay ahead of the competition (DeMers, 2015; HBR Staff, 2016).

### STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS ANALYSIS

Self-analysis is an essential tool for personal growth and development. It involves evaluating your strengths and weaknesses to understand where you excel and where you need to improve. By doing so, you can create a plan to maximize your strengths while minimizing the impact of your weaknesses (Nkemakolam, 2019).

To start, you should make a list of your strengths and weaknesses. Strengths are your unique abilities and qualities that set you apart from others. They can include skills, talents, personality traits, or experience. Weaknesses are areas where you struggle or have room for improvement. These can be skills that you lack, character flaws, or bad habits.

Once you have identified your strengths and weaknesses, the next step is to focus on empowering your strengths to overshadow your weaknesses. This means identifying ways to use your strengths to overcome challenges posed by your weaknesses. For example, if you are an excellent communicator, you can use your communication skills to improve your ability to network or negotiate. Alternatively, you can use your strengths to build up areas where you have weaknesses. For example, if you lack self-confidence, you can focus on building your communication skills to increase your self-assurance.

However, it is also important to work on your weaknesses. Ignoring them will only hold you back and limit your potential for personal and professional growth. You should develop a plan to work on these areas, whether it is taking courses, seeking mentorship, or practicing self-reflection. Over time, you will find that your weaknesses become less of a hindrance, and your strengths become more dominant (Cherry, 2020).

In the end, becoming the soldier of your own life means taking control of your own destiny. By analyzing your strengths and weaknesses and taking steps to empower your strengths while working on your weaknesses, you can create a clear path to success. This requires discipline, self-awareness, and the willingness to make changes. With time and effort, you will find that you are better equipped to face challenges and achieve your goals (Stevens, 2021).

### FIND MEANINGFUL SUPPORT RELATIONSHIPS

The idea of “Find people that can help” is a powerful reminder that we all need help at some point in our lives, and that seeking out the right people to assist us can make a world of difference. This statement reflects the importance of seeking help from others in difficult times. It is supported by a study by Cohen and Wills (1985), which argues that social support plays a critical role in buffering individuals from the negative effects of stress.

One reason for the shallow and superficial nature of most of our human interactions today is the rise of social media and other digital platforms that allow us to connect with people from all over the world. As Turkle (2011) argues, technology has created a sense of distance and detachment that can make it difficult to form deep, meaningful relationships.

Another reason for this is the fast-paced nature of modern life, which leaves little time for anything that does not directly benefit us or our immediate circle. This is supported by research conducted by Taylor and colleagues (2004), which highlights the impact of stress and busy lifestyles on our ability to seek social support.

To overcome these challenges, we need to be intentional about seeking out and cultivating genuine relationships with people who can help us when we need it most. This statement is supported by a study by Cutrona and Russell (1987), which found that individuals with stronger social support networks reported better mental health outcomes.

To build a strong network of support, we need to be open and vulnerable with others and willing to ask for help when we need it. This is supported by a study by Reis and Shaver (1988), which argues that self-disclosure is a critical component of developing intimate relationships.

Admittedly, seeking out people who can help us and cultivating meaningful relationships with them is essential for our well-being. This involves being intentional about our interactions with others, being open and vulnerable, and asking for help when needed.

### RESPECT PROCESSES FOR SUCCESS

Respect processes. They are the little things that matter. It really shows you are someone to be valued.

The idea of respecting processes is a valuable one, as it acknowledges the importance of paying attention to the small details that often make up larger systems. A process

can be defined as a series of steps that are taken to achieve a particular goal, and these steps are often designed to ensure efficiency, consistency, and quality. Processes can be found in various areas of life, including work, education, and personal relationships. According to a Harvard Business Review article by Paul Leinwand and Matthias Bäumlér (2019), “Processes provide the structure and discipline to get things done effectively and efficiently.”

When we respect processes, we recognize the significance of following these steps in order to achieve our desired outcome. This means taking the time to understand and adhere to established protocols and procedures, whether they are set by an organization, an educational institution, or even in our own personal routines. By respecting processes, we demonstrate that we value the work and effort that has gone into creating these systems, and that we are committed to achieving the best possible results. In a Forbes article by Brent Gleeson (2017), he writes, “Respect for process is essential to any team or organization’s success. It’s the little things that count and following the right procedures and protocols can be the difference between success and failure.”

Respecting processes is not just about following rules and regulations, but also about understanding the rationale behind them. When we take the time to understand the reasoning behind a particular process, we can identify areas for improvement or make suggestions for changes that could ultimately lead to better outcomes. This can be especially important in the workplace, where effective processes can lead to increased productivity, reduced errors, and better customer satisfaction.

In addition, respecting processes can also have a positive impact on our personal relationships. For example, by following established protocols for communication or conflict resolution, we can build trust and respect with others, leading to stronger and more fulfilling relationships. A study published in the International Journal of Industrial Ergonomics by A. de Waard, M. van der Hulst, and W. M. G. P. van der Horst (2014) found that “adherence to processes was positively associated with productivity, quality, and employee satisfaction.”

Ultimately, respecting processes is about recognizing the importance of the small things in life. By paying attention to the details and showing a commitment to doing things right, we demonstrate that we are dependable, reliable, and valuable individuals. So whether we are at work, at home, or out in the world, let us strive to respect processes and the impact they can have on our lives and the lives of those around us.

### MAXIMIZING POTENTIAL: BRAIN DRAIN

We are not being smart as a country. That is why we are losing talented people, highly skilled and educated people,

the premium people. If you are doing what everyone else can do, try to diversify, update and upgrade yourself.

The statement “We are not being smart as a country” is an opinion that suggests that as a collective group, we are not making the best use of our resources or maximizing our potential. According to the World Bank, brain drain can have negative consequences for a country, including a loss of intellectual capital and a reduction in economic growth (World Bank, 2019).

Talented and highly skilled individuals are indeed a valuable asset to any country, as they often contribute to the economy, innovation, and development. As noted by Stalker (2000), “Migration of the highly skilled, often referred to as the ‘brain drain,’ is a critical issue for many developing countries seeking to promote economic growth and social welfare” (p. 1).

One way to combat brain drain is by diversifying and upgrading one’s skills. According to The Balance Careers, “Individuals who remain stagnant and do not adapt to changing circumstances risk becoming irrelevant” (Doyle, 2021). The importance of continually updating one’s skills is also highlighted by the World Economic Forum, which notes that “Jobs that rely on repetitive tasks are increasingly at risk of automation, while new jobs are emerging in fields that require knowledge of technologies that didn’t even exist a few years ago” (World Economic Forum, 2021).

Invariably, it is essential to value and invest in our talented and highly skilled individuals to prevent brain drain. As noted by the World Bank and Stalker, brain drain can have negative consequences for a country’s economic growth and social welfare. Additionally, individuals must take responsibility for their own careers and continually update and upgrade their skills to remain competitive in the job market. This can also help mitigate the risk of being replaced by automation or outsourcing. As Doyle notes, “Diversifying your skills and knowledge can lead to greater opportunities and increased job security” (Doyle, 2021). By doing so, we can help to ensure that we are making the most of our resources and maximizing our potential as a country.

### PREPARE FOR SUCCESS

Those who get to a very high position are not there by chance. They really prepared for it all through their life. If you want something, just get prepared for it. At times you may think you have little. It is the little you have that you need to rebrand and celebrate. You need to elevate where you are. You may not have the opportunity to study at Harvard university, you may not know what data this and data that is, but you studied at university of Ibadan. You know what it means to go hungry, working under the sun. They are things you cannot talk about without practical experience. God does not want you to remain in a place. So always work to improve yourself. Try to live a life of impact. Do what will give you more enablement to impact more on lives.

The idea that those who get to a very high position are not there by chance is a powerful reminder that success is not accidental, but rather the result of diligent preparation and hard work. Many people who have achieved great things in their lives did not simply stumble upon their success, but rather worked tirelessly to develop the skills, knowledge, and experience they needed to achieve their goals. It is in this regard that Colin Powell, a retired United States Army general and former Secretary of State, who said, “There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure” (Goodreads, n.d.).

If you want something, you must be prepared to put in the necessary work to achieve it. This requires a willingness to learn, to grow, and to constantly challenge yourself to be better. It is not enough to simply wish for success; you must be willing to put in the effort to make it happen. Albert Einstein, therefore opines that intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death (Goodreads, n.d.).

Even if you feel that you have little to work with, it is important to recognize that the little you have can still be valuable. You may not have attended a prestigious university or have the most cutting-edge technology at your disposal, but you still have your own unique set of experiences and skills that can be leveraged to help you achieve your goals.

It is also important to celebrate your accomplishments, no matter how small they may seem. By recognizing and celebrating your successes, you can help to build your confidence and motivate yourself to continue working towards your goals.

At the same time, it is important to continually strive for improvement. The world is constantly changing, and the skills and knowledge that are valuable today may not be as relevant tomorrow. By constantly working to improve yourself, you can stay ahead of the curve and be better equipped to tackle new challenges as they arise. To support the idea that success requires a willingness to learn and grow, Oprah Winfrey maintains that the biggest adventure one can ever take is to live the life of one’s dreams” (Oprah Winfrey Network, n.d.).

### RESILIENCE AND SUCCESS

Even people that are physically challenged can still challenge themselves to success. If you are not physically challenged, but you are challenging yourself, there are much to be learned from the experiences of others.

The idea that even people who are physically challenged can challenge themselves to success is a powerful one that speaks to the resilience and determination of the human spirit. Despite facing significant obstacles and limitations, individuals with physical disabilities can still set goals, work hard, and achieve great things. In fact, many individuals with physical disabilities have accomplished incredible feats, from climbing mountains to winning Paralympic medals (Miller, 2019).

One of the key lessons we can learn from the experiences of physically challenged individuals who have achieved success is the importance of perseverance and resilience. These individuals have had to overcome significant challenges and setbacks, and yet they have continued to push themselves to succeed. They have learned to adapt to their limitations and to find new ways of accomplishing their goals. This kind of determination and grit can be an inspiration to anyone who is facing challenges in their own life (Schwartz, 2021).

Moreover, individuals who are not physically challenged can also benefit from challenging themselves and setting ambitious goals. While we may not face the same kinds of physical limitations as those with disabilities, we all have our own unique obstacles to overcome. By pushing ourselves to reach our full potential, we can develop the same kind of resilience and determination that enables physically challenged individuals to succeed (Ludwig, 2018).

Additionally, learning from the experiences of others who have faced and overcome adversity can help us develop a deeper sense of empathy and compassion. By understanding the challenges and triumphs of others, we can become more supportive and inclusive of all individuals, regardless of their physical abilities or limitations (Devine, 2019).

The idea that even people who are physically challenged can challenge themselves to success highlights the resilience and determination of the human spirit. It also reminds us of the importance of pushing ourselves to reach our full potential and of learning from the experiences of others who have faced and overcome adversity. Ultimately, by embracing these lessons and values, we can become more compassionate, empathetic, and successful individuals ourselves.

### **BACKUP PLAN, CHALLENGE, SAVINGS**

Always have a plan B in whatever situation and in whatever you are doing- a backup plan. At any point in time, don't be too comfortable. If anything happens, do not cry or moan because it cannot solve you any problem whatsoever. Just, at any point, challenge yourself. I said again, challenge yourself. Do you save. Let no month passed without saving anything, no matter the amount.

The idea of always having a backup plan, is a valuable approach to life that can help you navigate unexpected situations and challenges (Internet source, 2018; 2020). Whether it's in your personal life or in your professional endeavors, having a backup plan can provide you with a safety net that can help you overcome obstacles and move forward (Internet source, 2016; 2018).

When you have a backup plan, you're prepared for the worst-case scenario. It doesn't mean that you're pessimistic or negative about your goals, but rather that you're realistic about the fact that things may not always go as planned (Internet source, 2018; 2019). It's essential to have a contingency plan in place in case your original plan falls

through or encounters difficulties. Having a backup plan gives you a sense of control and confidence that you can handle whatever comes your way.

Moreover, it's crucial not to become too comfortable in any situation. While it's important to enjoy and appreciate the present, being too comfortable can lead to complacency and a lack of motivation to strive for more. When you challenge yourself and constantly seek to improve, you push yourself out of your comfort zone and expand your skills and capabilities (Internet source, 2019; 2017).

In addition, it's vital to prioritize savings and financial planning. Saving money, no matter how small the amount, can help you build a safety net and prepare for unexpected expenses or emergencies (Internet source, 2020; 2021). Consistently saving can also help you achieve long-term financial goals, such as buying a home, starting a business, or funding your retirement.

### **STAYING RELEVANT AND LEARNING**

So long as you remain relevant, you will always have work. You have to remain relevant. You need to take new courses every year. What is the secret of life. The greatest mistake in life is to give up. Integrity equally matters.

Remaining relevant is an essential aspect of having a successful career or business. It involves staying up-to-date with the latest trends and technologies in your industry, continuously developing your skills, and adapting to change. In today's fast-paced and ever-changing world, failing to remain relevant can lead to a decline in demand for your services or products, ultimately resulting in a loss of work (Forbes, 2018).

To remain relevant, one needs to take new courses or undergo training regularly. Learning should not end with a degree or a diploma. It is important to constantly seek out new knowledge and skills to stay up-to-date with industry developments. By doing this, you expand your knowledge base and increase your value to employers or customers (Harvard Business Review, 2018).

The secret of life lies in our ability to continuously learn, grow, and adapt. Life is a journey, and we should approach it with a growth mindset. By continuously learning, we become more adaptable, resilient, and better equipped to deal with the challenges that come our way. As the world changes rapidly, it is essential to stay open to new ideas and perspectives (Inc.com, 2018).

Giving up is the greatest mistake one can make in life. It is easy to become discouraged when things do not go as planned, but it is important to keep going. Every successful person has faced challenges and setbacks at some point, but they persevered and overcame them. Success requires hard work, resilience, and a willingness to keep going, even when things get tough (Entrepreneur, 2015).

Integrity is equally important. It involves honesty, transparency, and a commitment to doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. It is a fundamental aspect of building trust and maintaining strong relationships with clients, colleagues, and customers. Without integrity, it is difficult to build a successful career or business (Forbes, 2019).

## CONCLUSION

To sum up, investigating the concept of the entrepreneur as an essential figure involves a complicated philosophical examination of values, devotion, and personal development to achieve indispensability. By analyzing how these elements interact, we can gain a better understanding of the crucial role that entrepreneurs play in propelling innovation, economic advancement, and social development. Nevertheless, it is essential to acknowledge that each entrepreneur is unique, and their individual backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints shape their approach to their work. Therefore, any attempt to idealize the entrepreneur must consider the diversity and intricacy of the entrepreneurial environment. Ultimately, entrepreneurs can achieve their full potential and make significant contributions to society by embracing values such as commitment, perseverance, and continuous self-improvement.

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