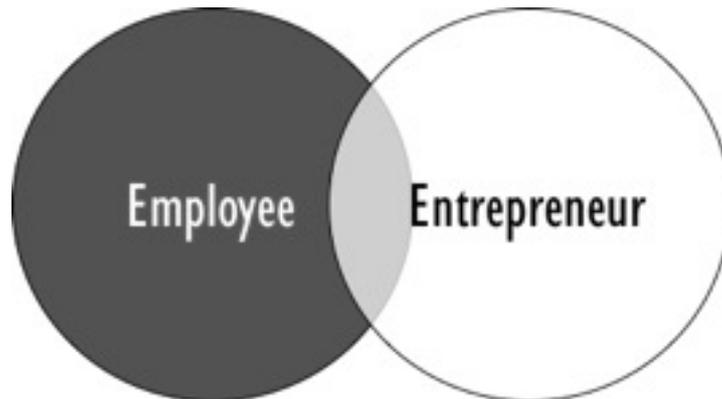


# Employee or Entrepreneur

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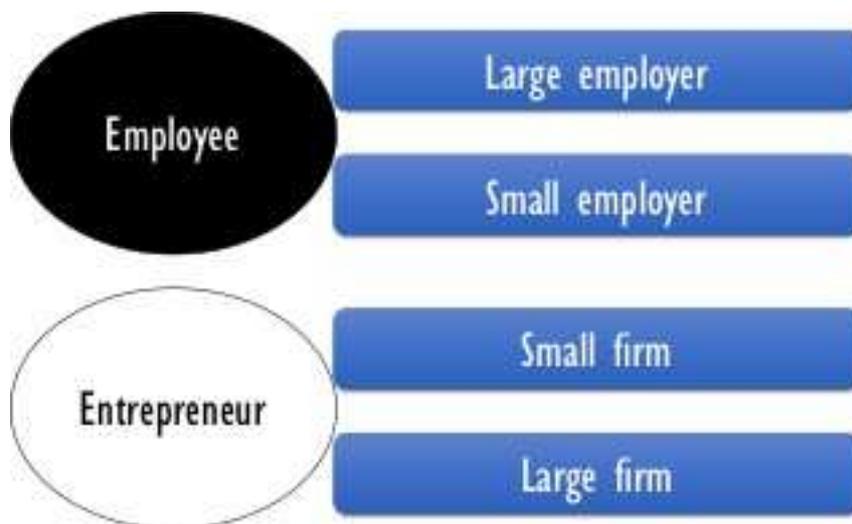
There is a clear need to clarify what it means to be an employee versus to be an entrepreneur. Very often young students or experienced professionals, are unsure which path to follow. Given the situation in India and the increasing number of start-ups this question is more common now than a few years ago. The situation can be a very confusing one for experience professionals and young professionals alike as they look to find their sweet spot. The working professionals wonder if they should to continue as an employee or find their way as an entrepreneur. The graduating students are under pressure to choose between a job and a starting a start-up, in addition to the questions from their parents and family.

There are some similarities between being an entrepreneur or an employee. Some of the skills and attributes are common. Obviously there are many differences too between them.

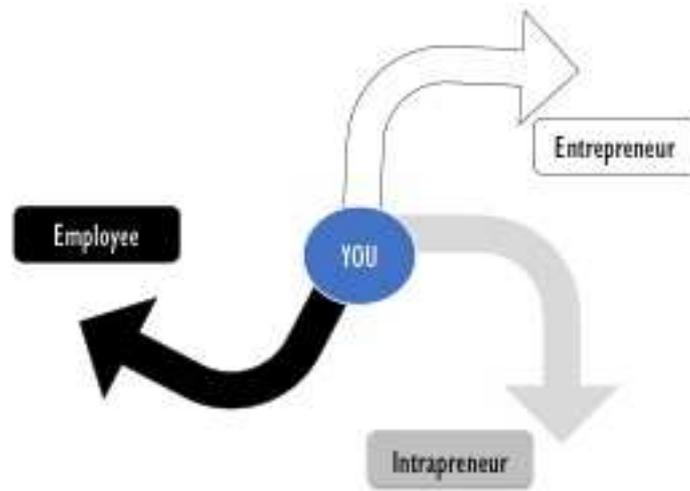


Having said that it is not a simple choice to make. Whichever choice one makes, it can keep coming back to the point to assess whether the other path would have been better. Making a choice between them is tricky to many. And keeping that choice can be even more tricky for many, depending on the circumstances of their employment.

As an employee one can be working for a large or a small employer. Similarly as an entrepreneur though everyone starts small, one can exercise the choice of growing or not. In the process one can stay relatively a small firm, which can happen with a consultancy firm or one can grow their venture into a large company.

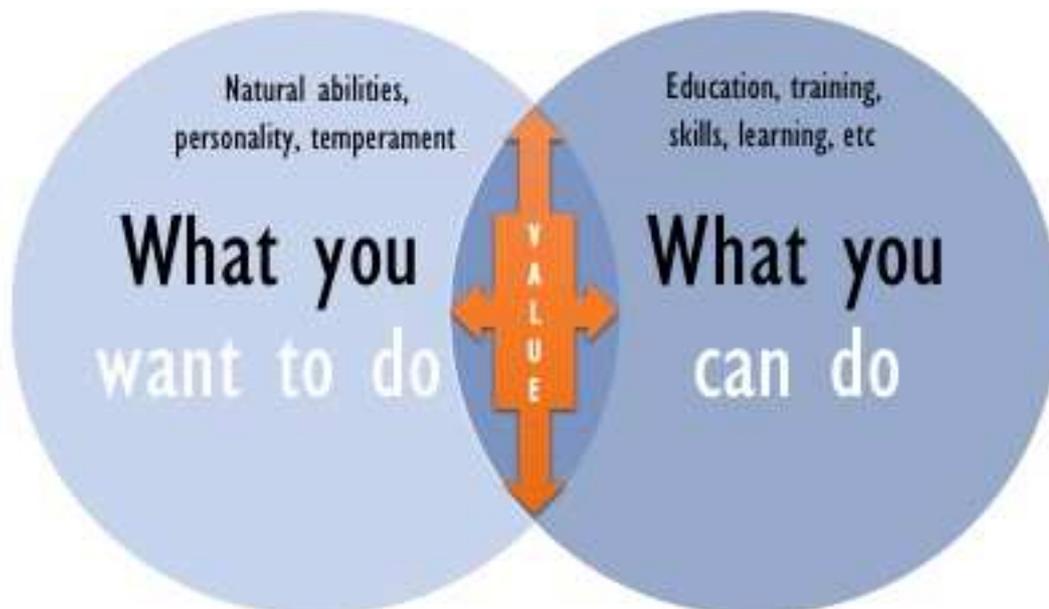


That essentially offers three paths – Entrepreneur – of a small or large company, Employee of a large or a smaller firm and Intrapreneur in an organisation, typically of larger size.



The essential difference between the three roles is the mindset. The key point is how one sees a given situation as at any given point of time. A typical employee sees a risk more often than not while an entrepreneur looks at the same situation and spots an opportunity.

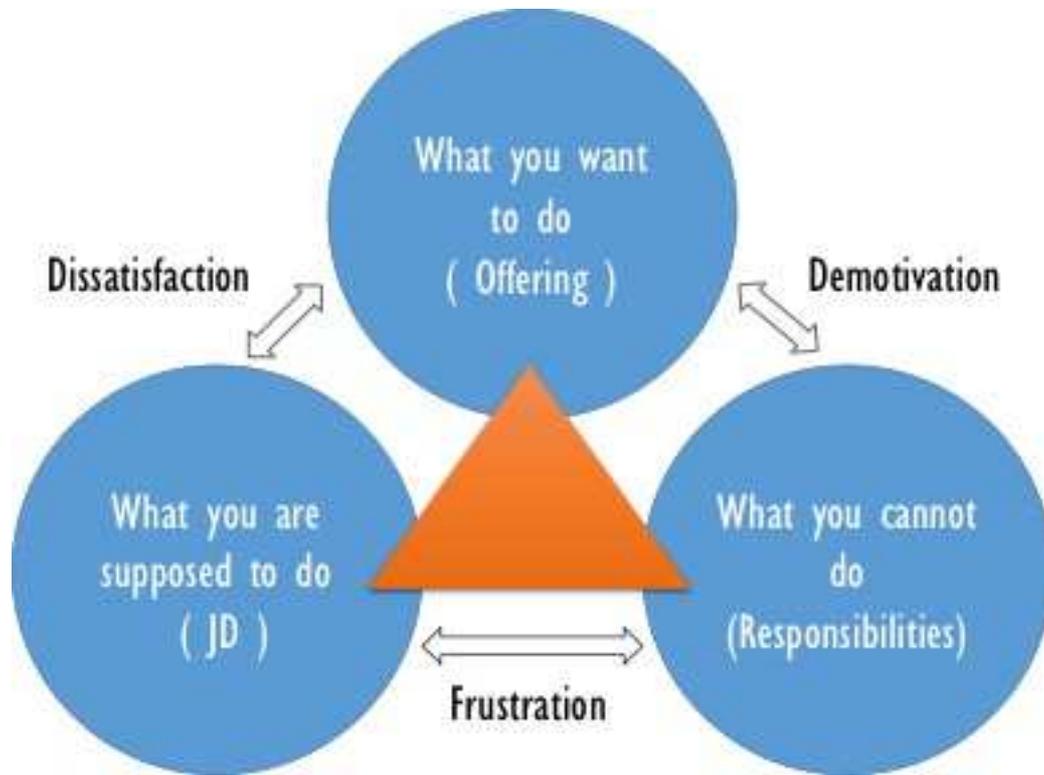
The starting point to make a choice should be knowing very clearly what you can do and what you want to do. The overlap of these two aspects creates the value you can create. The former is about the skills, learning, training etc and the latter is about your temperament, natural abilities, preferences, personality etc.



From there one needs to know what value they offer and combine with what the needs are. The intersection of these two aspects determines the worth of your choice. As an employee what you offer has to match with what is needed by the employer. As an entrepreneur what you make should be needed by the market.

What's in it for me is crucial in both aspects. When this fit is good, the stability of the choice is higher. As an employee what you give could be time and what you get could be money. An entrepreneur what you give could be more than time and you could more wealth in return than an average employee. But the relationship between what you give and what you get is not linear in both cases on being an employee or entrepreneur. For an entrepreneur the curve can take many forms from very good to very bad returns.

Having a good job description for either an employee or entrepreneur is key. If what you want to do doesn't match to that job description, it leads to dissatisfaction in your role which eventually leads to poor performance. If you cannot do what the job demands, then it leads to frustration. This when the other side looks greener. On the other hand if you cannot do what you want to do this will make room for demotivation which ultimately makes you dysfunctional in that role.



The professional growth is more rounded as an entrepreneur and mostly this is needed to be an effective entrepreneur. However as an employee the skills and professional growth is close to your areas of responsibility.

There are many parameters that separate entrepreneurs and employees such as salary which is not guaranteed, fixed or even regular, absence from work needs more planning, working hours which can be as many hours needed as an entrepreneur, guarantee of income and even guarantee of work, career path, designation that won't change much as an entrepreneur, stress levels because of the previous points, risk and reward equation which are skewed towards risk for an entrepreneur and most importantly decision making process is very heavy for an entrepreneur compared to a typical employee.

The skills needed are aligned though not in depth. Some of the skills that are key to making the choice of being an employee or entrepreneur are leadership, negotiation, strategizing, marketing your work, customer management, regulatory awareness, dealing with ambiguity and ability to stay connected to society and social life.

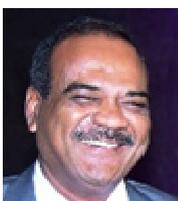
There are more differences between being an employee or entrepreneur. Freedom and responsibility is one important difference, security of money and wealth and growth along with risk and reward is another differentiation.

If employment helps you manage a living, entrepreneurship helps you manage life. While employment is about what you can do, entrepreneurship is about what all you can do. As an employee you give a slice of yourself, while as an entrepreneur you give yourself because employment is mainly about a part of your time and entrepreneurship is about your entire energy.

Before making a choice one should identify a role, a role model and very clearly understand why that role and role model resonates with them. They can then experiment even part-time to get a real feeling of what they think is true. One should also be very clear what they bring to the table and that has to be real value added stuff. There should also be a clarity of what their growth plans are which can help decide to be an employee or an entrepreneur.

What one should avoid doing is to change from one to the other when they are unhappy without knowing the reasons for that or when they are unsure.

#### About the author



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Mr Koushik has been a passionate and practicing Innovator & technology professional throughout his career of 26 years, with more than 20 national & international patents in various stages. Koushik has served in Philips Global Development Centre, Singapore, Philips Advanced Systems Laboratory & Philips Innovation Centre, Eindhoven, The Netherlands, Philips Innovation Centre, India, HCL as Practice Director Innovation, and TTK prestige as Vice-President and Head of Innovation.

As the Chief Innovator and co-founder of PRASU, Mr Koushik advises major companies such as Bosch, Continental, General Motors, Mercedes Benz, Volvo etc. on Innovation & also links academia and Industry through workshops and technical talks on Innovation, and has developed a syllabus for academia.

Areas of specialisation: Innovation for Business, Innovation Strategy, Intrapreneurship, IP & Patents, Technology & Innovation Competence Management, Converting ideas to new Products and Services, Product design, Product Development & Realisation, Mentoring start-ups, Technical Manager Mentoring & Coaching

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**18 pros and cons of being an employee vs. being an entrepreneur:** Both being an employee and being an entrepreneur have their own advantages and disadvantages. Entrepreneurs are often portrayed as happy and free, risk takers that have the benefits of controlling their own time and income. They often have uncapped potential earning and can jump from industry to industry using and developing business skills that ultimately add to their success and experience.

In the real light of day though, many entrepreneurs fail. They don't have the guaranteed income and work available that a contracted employee can enjoy. Unfortunately, they often don't have a team of colleagues to rely and depend on, a paycheck to cash at the end of every month, a company car and medical insurance, and a chance of career progression within the same company in exchange for years of service.

From the complexities of registering your company through to arduous tax returns, failures, fallouts and business pitfalls. The life of an entrepreneur is not as star-studded as people would believe when they see the word appear in the press. However, the diversification available to those that chase their dreams with new inventions and madcap ideas can often lead to self-satisfaction and an abundance in confidence that will help across all areas of life. In today's western society there is more and more opportunity for people to succeed and thrive as a freelancer and entrepreneur. The growth of the internet, remote working and artificial intelligence ... Along with the advancements in broadband and WIFI technology are making international freelancing easier and easier. Below we'll discuss the advantages and disadvantages available to both the entrepreneur and the employee. Full Post at <http://bit.ly/2kWXmj8>

**12 Important Differences Between Employees and Entrepreneurs:** There are two types of workers in any organization: Workers with an Employee Mindset & Workers with an Entrepreneurial Mindset. Some people surround themselves with the pre-planned deadlines. Some people prefer to work on their pre-planned future goals. It does not matter whether you are working for a company or not. What matters most is your mindset. On the basis of these two categories, let us look at 12 major differences between an Employee and an Entrepreneur. Full Post at <http://bit.ly/2kMe1Gc>

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