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English 101: This Disabled American Life

The Great Synergy

New professions and technologies are fabricated each moment of each day, and these new creations are the only tools that can change and improve the world. Without utilizing these proliferating inventions, the society is bound to fall into a stand still. These innovations can also be applied to the disabled society. Emma Thompson has once said, “being disabled should not mean being disqualified from having access to every aspect of life” (“Disability Advocate Gerard”). Many people still do not realize the potential of the disabled and how labeling them in the past has created the standstills. People with disabilities are just another group of people with a profession or a duty. Not only are these disabled no different from others, but they are also keys to a greater possibility that are just waiting to open new doors. In this paper, I will analyze the new concept of angel investments and how it connects to the disabled community. In further details, the possibility of synergy effect between the angel investors and the disabled entrepreneurs would be analyzed and compared to the relationship between investing companies and entrepreneurs today.

Before further explanation, it is important to state the difference between charity and investments. Although the name ‘angel investor’ suggests other wise, the specific investments made by these figures are quite far from purely altruistic gestures. Angel investors are misinterpreted as ones that are solely granting help to small businesses. However, as defined by Investopedia, angel investors do not hand off their money to entrepreneurs in purpose of just helping those in need (“Angel Investor”). Researchers continue to argue that charity, in fact, may be detrimental to these specific investors, because of numerous reasons including the limited nature of charity and effects of easy gratitude. (“Differences Between Private Foundations And Public Charities”). On the other hand, angel investors expect their part of the share through their investment, as they are hoping to maximize their economic potential. Angel investors will not invest in a company that they believe will not grow to be successful. Therefore, angel investors would not be giving charity to, for example, disabled entrepreneurs. By investing in those small businesses, they are in fact trying to gain a negotiation that will benefit both themselves and the disabled entrepreneurs. Angel investors are merely businessmen hiding behind the erroneous image of an angel.

Angel investing is a new concept that still is in the process of solidifying its definition. Not many people are aware of this profession, or as better defined, hobby. Angel investors are individuals using their private finances to provide the economical boost to starting companies in order to gain a share when the company later establishes well financially. A rising businessmen, Tenmou, is a fine example of angel investors today. Investing nearly one million dollars over the last two years, Tenmou exemplifies

the passion of finding and supporting different starting companies and guide them to establishment in the major industry ("Pioneering angel investor backs startups with \$1m"). Angel investors are financially well off, and like Tenmou, they only seek specific kinds of companies that accord to their 'tastes', such as new technology companies. Although the concept may be still solidifying, there are many angel investors today that are constantly seeking for new opportunities.

Being a fairly new creation, the concept of angel investing has definitely not been one of the most linked subjects with the disabled business owners. There is a huge potential, nonetheless, in creating this connection between the two. Of the many reasons why these two professions are compatible, one is the perspective of the disabled entrepreneurs. An article from *The Times* supports this by stating common patterns for the disabled entrepreneurs. Large investment corporations do not have the time and risk to look into and invest in the disabled entrepreneurs in fear of financial loss ("How disabled entrepreneurs can overcome the hurdles"). Since these large companies mostly refuse disabled business owners, people with disabilities are forced to turn to the government. Therefore, many of these entrepreneurs have only the option to receive minimal help from the government in order to build their companies ("How disabled entrepreneurs can overcome the hurdles"). *The New York Times* agrees on the point that these disabled entrepreneurs, therefore, are unable to turn from the government and become independent workers ("A Temptation to Resist on Disability Insurance"). Take the Social Security Disability Insurance, or SSDI, for example. The eligibility states that even people with disability that have a solid business established and running may receive financial help ("Social Security Program Information"). However, when the income of the company increases to a certain point, then the financial aide is stopped. This means that even the SSDI are automatically limiting companies run by businessmen and businesswomen with disabilities. With the limitations that these insurances are forcing onto the disabled entrepreneurs, the companies that they run cannot flourish.

This does not mean that these entrepreneurs do not have places to turn to. With the growing industry, there are numerous different types of possibilities these disabled workers can now turn to, and one is to reach out to the angel investors ("Skills for Disabled Entrepreneurs"). The creation of these angel investments offers a great alternative to the minimal government help. Unlike the large investment companies, angel investors have the effort and time to investigate deeply into the disabled culture, since, in comparison, they do not have a strict system they must follow. Since these disabled thinkers, as Times adds on, must face these hindrances and obstacles to establish their goals, the introduction of angel investment might be the perfect alternative to receive the little boost that these small companies need. The charity-like characteristic of government loans have constantly labeled and restricted these entrepreneurs. By working with angel investors, these entrepreneurs can now receive the adequate help like all other strong and individual companies.

This lineage benefits disabled entrepreneurs, but it also has the possibility to greatly help the other perspective as well. As stated before, the disabled industry is one that has not been touched and thus has more room to grow. Since these investment

companies have neglected the disabled industry, great possibilities are still untouched by entrepreneurs. By spending more time investigating the disabled community, investors can seek the company with high potential to rise. The disabled community includes both companies with disabled workers and leaders and companies that target the disabled audience. The potential for companies with disabled workers and leaders are great, since they are pushed to defy the traditional office environment. There are multiple successful companies that have in fact created these nontraditional office environments in order to maximize the productivity of the workers. As Malcolm Gladwell states in his book, *David and Goliath*, challenges like disability can become a benefit when utilized efficiently. On the other hand, the companies that aim for the disabled audience can also be a gold mine for the angel investors. Since these specific companies are not targeted yet, for the technology boom has shifted all focus, these companies can be grown into a monopoly, gaining a huge income for the company and their investors. If these angel investors are successful, then they will have a great chance of success. With few competing industries, angel investors might be able to gain a share of a monopolized market.

The synergy effect that the angel investors and disabled entrepreneurs have is tremendous. Although it has not yet been thoroughly experimented, the benefits that the investors and the entrepreneurs have can create a great negotiation between the two, since both sides are benefitting from this pairing. However, negotiations between the angel investors and disabled entrepreneurs still have much more to be researched and experimented. In order to change lives and lead society for the better, people need to step out of the comfort zone to find these innovations. With the new objectives, such as the angel investors and disabled, great possibilities would rise for the better world.

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