

# We don't need entrepreneurs right now - we need to meet..

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I am [amused by a headline in the FT this morning](#) that says:

*Japan grapples with lack of entrepreneurs*

The article is about red tape, but I think that misses the point. The fact is that around the world we don't need vast numbers of new entrepreneurs right now. The fact is that much of what entrepreneurs can make right now is of limited social value, often uses scarce resources in wasteful fashion, and meets artificially generated wants and not fundamental needs.

The last point is, perhaps, the most important. People need healthcare, education for life, homes, flood defences, social safety nets, care and more. Candidly, they need few more phones (at least in developed countries) or many more apps, or gadgets, or even coffee shops in many parts of many cities. Entrepreneurs are, therefore, not what we want.

We need teachers, social workers, carers, librarians, builders working for local authorities to make new homes and repair existing ones, planners, and so on. It is they who are delivering the value in our society now - because they're fulfilling need, not wants.

We are a society in poverty that the market cannot correct. The sooner we realise it and stop our fixation with market solutions and realise that it is through the community, with government as its agent, that most pressing wants can be met the better off we'll be.

Don't get me wrong: I don't want to stop entrepreneurs. But fixating on them is a sign of our problem, not the solution we're seeking and realising that is important.