

UNIT 1
INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

BUSINESS

In the world "Business Economics" "Business" means a state of being busy. It means any activity continuously undertaken by a man to earn a profit.
Stephenson defines business as "The regular production or purchase and sale of goods undertaken with an objective of earning profit and acquiring wealth through the satisfaction of human wants."
Lewis Henry defines business as, "Human activity directed towards producing or acquiring wealth through buying and selling of goods."

Characteristics or Features of business:

1. **Dealing in Goods and Services:** The first basic characteristic of a business is that it deals in goods and services. Goods may be tangible goods such as bread, rice, cloth, etc., or intangible goods such as machines, tools, etc.
2. **Production and Exchange:** Every business is concerned with production and exchange of goods and services for value (money). Thus, goods produced or purchased for personal consumption (not for presenting to others as gifts) do not constitute business because there is no sale (transfer for equal benefits).
3. **Regularity and Continuity in Dealings:** One sale transaction alone, strictly speaking, is not a business. The production of goods or rendering of services for a price is a regular and continuous activity. The activity will be called a business.
4. **Uncertainty or Risk:** Business is subject to risks and uncertainties. **Stigler** thinks that all risks of loss due to fire and theft can be insured. There are also uncertainties, such as loss due to change in demand or fall in price caused by season and trend in the business.
5. **Profit Motive:** The business is carried on with the intention of earning a profit. The profit is reward for the services of a businessman.
6. **The Market:** Business means "interdependence" the ability to supply through market through conduct of business. By producing and supplying various commodities, businessmen try to provide total human satisfaction.

THEORY OF THE FIRM

The theory of the firm consists of a number of economic theories that explain and predict the nature of the firm, company, or corporation, including its structure, behavior, objectives, and relationship to the market.

- In simplified terms, the theory of the firm aims to answer these questions:
1. **Existence:** Why do firms emerge? Why are not all transactions in the economy mediated over the market?
 2. **Boundaries:** Why the boundary between firms and the market is located exactly there with relation to size and output capacity? Which transactions are performed internally and which are negotiated on the market?
 3. **Organization:** Why are firms structured in such a specific way, for example as to hierarchy or decentralization? What is the structure of firms and internal relationships?
 4. **Heterogeneity of firm activities/performance:** What drives different actions and performances of firms?

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