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STUDY ON E-WASTE CONCERNS AND TROUBLES IN INDIA

Khushboo Yadav[*1], Priti Ravatale[*2], Gayatri Angaitkar[*3], Dr. B. J. Mohite[*4]

[*1,2,3,4]Zeal institute of business administration computer application and research, Pune, Maharashtra

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the current study is to identify the many problems and practical challenges that India is now experiencing with managing electronic waste. According to research by the Basel Action Network (BAN), which aims to stop the globalization ofdangerous chemicals, 50 to 80 percent of the US's collected e-waste is transferred to countriesincluding India, China, Pakistan, Taiwan, and several African nations. This is accomplishedbecause recycling is available cheaper labor in these nations. E-waste export is also permitted in the US. Recycling and disposal of e-waste cause significant pollution in China, India, and Pakistan. China recently outlawed the import of e-waste. Since the informal sectorin India is largely responsible for recycling e-waste and lacks the resources to handle either the growing volumes or some processes, there is an unbearable risk to both human health andthe environment. The current methods of managing e-waste in India face a number of difficulties, including the difficulty of ineffective regulations, the deplorable and unsafe conditions of informal recycling, the low level of consumer awareness, and the unwillingnesson the part of the stakeholders to address the issues.

Keywords -Electronic Waste, Electronic Trash, Biodegradable, Ethical Management.

I. INTRODUCTION

Electronic waste, or e-waste, is the garbage that we produce from extra, damaged, and outdatedelectronic devices. Millions of electronic items reach the end of their useful lives each year. Ifwe do not properly dispose of electronics, a variety of toxic substances and materials are discharged into the environment. Millions of electronic items reach the end of their useful liveseach year. E-waste is made up of a variety of expensive yet dangerous materials that could behazardous to people's health. Tons of electronic goods are sent across the oceans every year, but after they are used, they turn into complex waste materials.

Statement of Problem

Up to 80% of the collected e-waste by recyclers is exported to other countries, including illegally exported e-scrap, which is a cause for worry. The improper management of electronicsrecycling in underdeveloped nations has resulted in a number of environmental and health issues. Sagging global prices for recycled goods have hurt profitability and led to company closures. More and more things are produced in ways that make it difficult for consumers to recycle, repair, or reuse them. Since the majority of e-waste is still sent to landfills, there is a lot of room for growth in recycling.

Objectives of the study

1. To understand the management of electronic waste from both a global and Indian standpoint.
2. To identify the numerous problems with India's practices for managing electronic trash.
3. To establishing ethical management procedures for disposing of electronic waste in India.

Scope of study

By recycling e-waste, we can advance the development of a wide range of pricey metals and other materials from electronics while conserving energy, lowering pollution, keeping landfillspace, and generating employment. The EPA estimates that recycling one million computers can save enough energy to power 3,657 U.S. households for a year. In addition, recycling onemillion cell phones can yield 33 pounds of palladium, 35,274 pounds of copper, 772 pounds ofsilver, and 75 pounds of gold. On the other hand, recycling of e-waste reduces production waste. The Electronics Take Back Coalition estimates that the production of a single computerand monitor uses 1.5 tons of water, 530 pounds of fossil fuel, and 40 pounds of chemicals. A computer uses 81% of its energy during manufacture and not during operation. In order to formulate the best solutions for resolving the aforementioned problems in the future, this studymust first identify the key problems with India's current system of managing electronic trash.

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Literature review

Electronic waste, also referred to as e-scrap or e-waste, is the garbage that we produce from extra, damaged, and outdated electronic devices. If we do not properly dispose of electronics, a variety of poisonous and hazardous substances and materials are discharged into the environment. The process of reclaiming components from outdated electronics for use in newgoods is known as "e-waste" or "electronics recycling." Electronics quickly turn into e-waste due to their extremely limited useful lives.

In fact, it's thought that houses worldwide contain close to 500 million unused cell phones. Around 25% of people worldwide purchase a cell phone each year, and millions of electronic items, including mobile phones, TVs, computers, laptops, and tablets, reach the end of their useful lives each year. The phrase "e-waste," often abbreviated as "e-waste," refers to outdated,end-of-life electronics that have been dumped by abusers, including computers, laptops, TVs,radios, refrigerators, etc. E-waste is made up of a variety of expensive yet dangerous materialsthat could be hazardous to people's health. If proper practises and processes are not used, recycling e-waste might be dangerous.

The largest and most inventive industry of its kind is the electronic one. Tons of electronic goods are sent across the oceans every year, but after they are used, they turn into complex waste materials that contain various dangerous intense metals, acids, toxic chemicals, and non- biodegradable polymers. Numerous are sent to recyclers, burned, or dumped. Leaded glass, circuit boards, and mercury lamps are often sent by the majority of e-recyclers to China, Africa,and India. e- In addition to being taken off, the waste that is junked and demolished here is alsotorn, burned, and shredded. The smoke and dust particles contain carcinogens and other dangerous compounds that can lead to serious abrasions and irritations, as well as a variety ofrespiratory and skin conditions. Circuits are burned to extract rich metals like gold, platinum, and cadmium, but their PVC wirecoatings create sexy smoke and the carbon particles from the toners are carcinogens that may cause skin cancer and lung cancer.

II. METHODOLOGY

The exploratory methodology used in this research is based on a qualitative assessment of theecological and social elements of e-waste management. Due to a lack of available data on e- waste, an exploratory methodology was chosen. Data were gathered by extensively analysing qualitative data about the subject that have been published in a variety of sources, mostly fromreports, news stories, websites, and other publications by various Government and NGOs. Thisreport draws attention to the problems with India's e-waste disposal.

Applied Technology

In addition to two unique PCB recycling technologies, with a 1000 kg/day capacity and 100 kg/batch processes, with acceptable environmental standards, the MeitY has created inexpensive solutions to recycle precious materials and polymers in an environmentally soundmanner. The construction of an eco-park in the nation would be appropriate for the 1000 kg PCB/day continuous process plant, but the 100 kg PCB/batch process plant would be appropriate for the unorganized sector. This could be accomplished by improving and changing how the informal sectors are now operating. Plastic makes up roughly 25% of the weight of electronic garbage. Innovative methods for recovering and turning polymers from e-waste intogoods with added value have also been developed successfully. 76% of the waste plastics canbe converted using the established technology into materials that can be used to make virgin plastic items. For commercialization, the technology has already been transferred. There havebeen some steps in this regard, but more ground still has to be covered through awareness raising, skill training, human capital development, technology introduction, and the adoption of proper safety measures in the nation's informal sector. There is a need for a well-designed, strong, and controlled e-waste recovery regime that would create jobs and wealth because Indiais severely lacking in precious mineral resources (while untreated e-waste goes to landfills).

Challenges and Strategies

Electronic waste (sometimes referred to as e-waste) is produced when any electrical orelectronic equipment is no longer suitable for its intended use or has passed its expiration date.The production of newer electronic equipment and the quick advancement of technology makeit simple to swap out outdated models

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fomore modern ones. Particularly in India, it has causede-waste to rise exponentially. People have a tendency to migrate to newer models and popular technology, and with time, product lifespans get shorter. But e-waste management in India andits difficulties remain the problem. Better management of e-waste in India depends on consumers. Initiatives include Extended Producer Responsibility, Design for Environment, andthe 3Rs technology platform for promoting market connectivity by promoting the circular economy, companies hope to get more people to recycle and reuse more of their garbage, as well as develop sustainable buying habits. The management of electronic trash is a top priorityin many developed nations. In contrast, it is made worse in poor nations by totally copying or adopting their approach to managing e-waste as well as a number of other issues, such as a lack of funding and technically qualified people resources. Additionally, there are issues with the infrastructure and the lack of pertinent legislation, particularly in relation to e-waste. Additionally, the roles and obligations of institutions and stakeholders in e-waste managementare not adequately described.

An analysis of risks and difficulties

Quickest Growth: The following three kinds of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE), which presently account for 75% of the world's e-waste by weight (33.6 Mt of 44.7 Mt), are predicted to have the fastest growth:

a) Small apparatus (i.e., Vacuums, ovens, air compressors, household appliances, cookers, shaving razors, scale, calculator, radio sets, cameras, small medical equipment, tinymonitoring and control devices, and electrical and digital toys). 16.8 Mt were produced in2016, with a 4% annual increase rate projected until 2020.

b) Huge machinery (i.e., Electric ovens, washers, dryers, dishwasher machines, huge printers,copiers, and solar systems). 9.2 Mt were produced in 2016, with a 4% annual increase rateprojected until 2020.

c) Equipment for exchanging temperatures (i.e., ice makers, air conditioning systems, and water heaters). 7.6 Mt were produced in 2016, with a 6% annual growth rate projected until2020.

d) Miniature IT and telecom gear, such as cell phones, GPS units, pocket calculators, routers,desktop PCs, printers, and telephones. 3.9 Mt was produced in 2016, with 2% yearly growth through 2020. Little anticipated growth

e) Lights (i.e., fluorescence lighting, HID lighting, and LED lighting). 0.7 Mt was produced in 2016, with a 1% yearly increase rate projected until 2020. Weight loss anticipated in thefuture:

f) Screens (such as screens, displays, computers, workstations, and tablets), with flat panel displays taking the place of bulky CRT screens. 6.6 Mt were produced in 2016, with a 3%yearly reduction until 2020.

III. BUILDING E-WASTE MANAGEMENT AWARENESS

In 2015, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and industryassociations launched the Digital India e-waste awareness programme to inform the public about the risks associated with e-waste recycling by the unorganised sector and to inform themabout alternative e-waste disposal options. The initiative emphasises the importance of implementing eco-friendly e-waste recycling procedures. In order for this industry to be able to employ locals and offer them realistic business opportunities, the programme has incorporated the best e-waste recycling techniques now in use around the world.

Potential Stepladder Used to Establish Sound in India's E-Waste Management System

The handling of electronic trash has, despite its expanding environmental impact, received theleast attention to date and has made little progress for a variety of reasons. Prior to being dumped in garbage yards, hazardous goods, particularly heavy metals, must be separated fromregular waste and recycled. Garbage collectors, waste pickers, waste dealers, small stores, andhouseholds all play a significant role in recovering consumer waste. These individuals must be educated, and safe conditions for informal recycling must be guaranteed. Aggressive government programmes promoting basic cleanliness are raising consumer awareness. Although there is a large market for second-hand goods in India, which helps to reduce e-waste in the environment, e-waste is still recovered there far more effectively. With the development of technology, rising purchasing power of the populace, and shorter product lifespans, concernsabout the management of e-waste could be alleviated. However, this would lead to more frequent replacement of old products with new ones, which would further increase the

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production of e-waste.

IV. CONCLUSION

The largest portion of e-waste is recycled in India through unorganised facilities, which employa sizable workforce. The old method of extracting metals from PCBs is extremely dangerous. It is necessary to provide appropriate enlightenment, information, and—most importantly— alternative, cost-effective technologies so that better resources can be made available to individuals who rely on this as their source of income. To address India's e-waste managementconcerns, a comprehensive approach is required. Small units in the unorganised sector and large units in the organised sector should both be incorporated into a single value chain throughthe development of an appropriate system. Units in the unorganised sector could focus on collected works, destroy them, and segregate them as one possible strategy.

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