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ESSENCE OF E-WASTE MANAGEMENT IN THE PRESENT SCENARIO: A CASE STUDY OF YOUTHS ON E-WASTE AWARENESS

SUMALATHA LECTURER SAINT MARY'S SYRIAN COLLEGE **BRAHMAVARA**

VANITA SHETTY LECTURER SAINT MARY'S SYRIAN COLLEGE **BRAHMAVARA**

ABSTRACT

Electronic and electrical equipment are essential part of busy world. Due to obsolescence and advancement electronic devices are changing faster in recent years. The availability of electronics and electrical goods in the market has increased temptation of consumers to replace their electronic items with newer models for various reasons. That results into higher rate of obsolescence, which is leading to growing piles of e-waste. In India the electronic waste management assumes greater significance due to the dumping of e-waste, which is steadily increasing day by day. Improper disposals of these electronic wastes affect the soil, air and water components of the environment. Tons and tons of e-waste are dumped each year and the problem continues to grow. The aim of this article is to spread the awareness among the public about the various issue involved in generation and management of e-waste, particularly from Indian perspective.

KEYWORDS

e-waste, electronic, equipments, disposal, generate, problem, obsolescence.

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INTRODUCTION

-Waste is new field in the global problem of waste removal. This growing problem is ignored or misunderstood. Many people don't aware how it affects the environment. E- Waste come from improper disposal of electronic devices like computer, televisions, and cell phones etc., unfortunately many are not aware about proper disposal of E-Waste and throw them in garbage or incinerators. The components such as CPU contain harmful contents such as lead, cadmium, beryllium or brominated flame retardants. One of the most common effects of E-Waste is air pollution such as Lagos and its inhabitants. On soil and water, it causes toxic heavy metals and chemicals from e-waste and enters human body through 'soil crop-food pathway'.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

E-Waste problem is a new and fastest growing segment in the waste removal. E-Waste recycling and disposal is highly polluting. In India, recycling of E-Waste is almost entirely left to the informal sector which does not have adequate means to handle either the increasing quantities or certain processes, leading to intolerable risk of human health and environment.

The e-waste recycling process is highly labour intensive and goes through several steps. The government passed first law on e-waste management in 2011, based on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). It is an eco- friendly way, by the creating certain norms in tandem with State Pollution Control Boards. E-Waste (Management) Rules 2016, enacted since October 1, 2017 had further strengthened the existing rules. Over 21 products were included under the purview to components or consumable or parts or spare of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) along with their products. The present rule has strengthened the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), which is the global best practice to ensure the take back of the end of life products. New arrangement entitled 'Producer Responsibility Organisation' (PRO) has been introduced to Strengthen EPR further.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Present paper mainly aims at following objectives:

- To understand the concept of E-Waste management. 1.
- 2. To interpret the environmental and health hazards.
- 3 To look at the economical aspect of e-waste including the existing informal sector.

METHODOLOGY

DATA COLLECTION

For the purpose of the present study primary data was collected through a structured questionnaire from the rural users of electronic equipments. 200 graduate students were selected from rural area for the study. For conceptual framework secondary sources of information were referred from various journals of repute and also browsed the net.

TOOLS OF ANALYSIS

Importance of concept of E - Waste Management is identified from the reaction of respondent. The systematic interpretation has been drawn from finding of the study. Here authors made an attempt to find the reality of E-Waste Management among the present youths.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

TABLE 1: AWA	ARENESS OF E-WASTE N	MANAGEMENT
	No. of Respondents	Percentage

Aware 152 76 Not Aware 48 24 200 100 Total Source: Primary Data

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TABLE 2: DIFFERENT WAYS OF E-WASTE MANAGEMENT

	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Waste Collectors	84	42
Resale	76	38
Others	40	20
Total	200	100

Source: Primary Data

TABLE 3: AWARENESS ABOUT HAZARDOUS FEATURES OF E-WASTE

	No. of Respondents	Percentage	
Yes	156	78	
No	44	22	
Total	200	100	
Source: Brimany Data			

Source: Primary Data

TABLE 4: WASTE COLLECTIONS AT DOOR STEPS

	No. of Respondents	Percentage	
Yes, Everything	68	34	
Yes, but Not E-Waste	84	42	
No	48	24	
Total	200	100	

Source: Primary Data

TABLE 5: CONVENIENCE OF PRESENT E-WASTE COLLECTION

	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	56	28
No	68	34
Manageable	76	38
Total	200	100

Source: Primary Data

TABLE 6: USAGE OF ELECTRONIC APPLIANCES AT HOME

		No. of Respondents	Percentage
	2-4	60	30
ſ	4-8	36	18
Ĩ	More than 8	104	52
	Total	200	100
Source: Brimany Data			

Source: Primary Data

TABLE 7: WHETHER E-WASTES ARE DISPOSED FOR FREE?

	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	80	40
No	120	60
Total	200	100

Source: Primary Data

TABLE 8: KNOWLEDGE ABOUT DISPOSAL OF E-WASTE

	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	60	30
No	44	22
Not sure	96	48
Total	200	100
Source: Primary Data		

Source: Primary Data

TABLE 9: AWARENESS OF HEALTH RISK ASSOCIATED WITH ELECTRONIC WASTE

	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	112	56
No	64	32
Not sure	24	12
Total	200	100
Source: Primary Data		

Source: Primary Data

TABLE 10: KNOWLEDGE OF LAWS PERTAINING TO ELECTRONIC WASTE MANAGEMENT

		No. of Respondents	Percentage
	Yes	56	28
	No	116	58
	Not sure	28	14
	Total	200	100

Source: Primary Data

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TABLE 11: AWARENESS ABOUT ANY PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES PERTAINING TO E-WASTE MANAGEMENT

16
66
18
100

Source: Primary Data

TABLE 12: PURCHASE O F ELECTRONIC GADGETS EVEN OLDER ONES ARE STILL WORKING

	No. of Respondents	Percentage	
Yes	56	28	
No	144	72	
Total	200	100	

Source: Primary Data

TABLE 13: PURCHASE OF BRANDED GADGETS THAT ARE REPEATABLE FOR DURABILITY AND LONGER LIFE

	No. of Respondents	Percentage		
Yes	88	44		
No	112	56		
Total	200	100		
Courses Data Data				

Source: Primary Data

'Education makes everything possible', developing country like India suffers with many problems such as illiteracy, poverty, lack of knowledge etc. Respondents reaction depict that the E- waste management is not properly managed at present and to adopt this system in their life, awareness can be created by scheduling education programmes.

FINDING AND ANALYSIS

Based on the above information it could be identified that there are lack information that brings huge gap for usage of electronic items and managing e-waste, it seems to be tough for society to understand the ecological effect and to adopt the system in coming days.

The study found that there is lack of knowledge among the people for disposal of electronic and electrical items. It has been observed that there is a absence of e-waste management system in rural areas. People take the help of waste collectors to dispose or sell their e-waste. It is found that respondents have no knowledge of processing of e-waste. Simply they hand over the e-waste to the waste collectors either for money or freely. It could be identified that majority of the youths buy new gadgets even though the older one is still in good condition to use. It because of change in technology. Frequent change in the technology also leads to increase in the e-waste. It is observed from the above table that there is lack knowledge about local or international laws pertaining to E-Waste management. It is observed that mindset of the people to manage their e-waste also hold back them from using any new platform. Authors tried to notice the challenges faced by the youths to reduce the usage of electronic items in their daily life.

SUGGESTION

The major modes of final disposal of e-waste are Reduce, Recycle and Reuse. Electronic Waste Disposal applies to consumer and business electronic equipment that is near or at the end of its useful life. Controlling e-waste can be done through not trashing them or throwing or by passing them or reusing or by recycling them. Finding a good e-waste recycler, staple stores, best buy stores or calling recycling drive and learning to fix broken gadgets. Minimising e-waste helps to conserve resources and reduces the amount of energy we take from the earth by re-evaluating, extending the life of the electronics and buying environment friendly electronics.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Any experiment is not beyond limitation. Even this practical study also suffers from technical limitations they are as per following:

- 1. This study based on point of view of youths only, since cannot be applied for overall interpretation of E-Waste management on whole economy.
- 2. Sample space drawn just limited to randomly selected graduate students from rural area in group of 200 respondents, even error of sampling would be found.
- 3. For interpretation none of the statistical techniques utilized and final summarization based on authors view for respondents reaction.

CONCLUSION

The process of e-waste is a source of valuable metals such as gold, nickel, copper, iron and silicon. There is also the reality that much of the refuse from electronic devices is hazardous. This will highly affect our lives and environment and damages the soil, air and water. The tons and tons of e-waste dumped each year and the problems continue to grow. The challenges faced by the people like lack of awareness, improper enforcement of existing laws, poor infrastructure, lack of systemisation of process and presence of very few professionally run recycling companies. Out of many challenges to the management of e-waste in the country, the major hurdle is the dominance of informal sector due to the lack of awareness. So, therefore government should take corrective actions about garbaging and recycling of e-waste, then the e-waste recycling process and e-waste managing process may guarantee the changes in E-Waste Management of the country.

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