

FAQ

E-Waste



What does the majority of the population currently do with old or non-working electronics?

Currently, people look old electronics as an asset to get paid whereas some small portion of society having old electronic items, generally give it to their servants/maid/care taker or sell out to scrap dealer or go for exchange offers by companies. In case of non-Working

electronics they give it to local waste pickers in return consumer gets money, waste picker hand over it to scrap dealers. Consumer, really do not know the working condition of electronics and waste pickers crushes the potential reusable electronics at door step of consumer and bags it in a waste stream.

Are the hazards of improperly managed electronics understood by most of the population?

No, Majority of people surprised if they were informed about hazardous it produces, really it is shocking for most of them. Even in our visit to school/college/engineering colleges even the faculties were unaware about toxicities of e-waste. Most of government department/private companies do not know about any legislations (India has E-waste rules, 2011) and sell e-waste to scrap dealers

through bidding process. The discarded electronics lying in store room are considered as assets for people and they generally sell it in Diwali festivals (On Diwali, festive of light people clean their houses) in exchange offers run during the season. On this occasion generally the money raised just by selling the old items goes to house wife so it's a season of income for women. People sell old electronics, due to religious sentiments not due to any hazardous reasons.



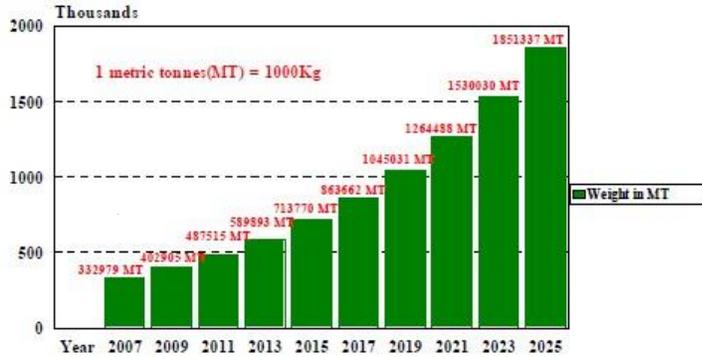


Fig.1: Growth of Ewaste in India

Source: StEp Data

What is the primary reason(s) that electronics are improperly managed or disposed of?

It can't be pointed out a single reason for the improper managed or disposal of the e-waste, so many factor are working parallel to it. Many people don't know about the e-waste and

other information about e-waste.

Some people who know about the e-

waste they ignore it and sell the electronic items to the scrap dealers at any price, do not think about dangers due to e-waste. Producer companies are responsible for collecting the E-Waste under the e-waste rules, but the compliance by companies are very poor which is the major reason of the improper management and disposal mechanism. For consumer the e-waste is a source of extra income by selling it to scrap dealers. Apart there is no proper governmental set up in cities in absence of that those who are willing to give for proper recycling cannot find the place where to dispose their electronics.



Is there a financial benefit for informal recyclers to restrict their work to collection and light disassembly, and partner with more technologically advanced facilities for further processing of materials?

Actually 95% of the electronics waste are dismantled (Out of that many can be Potential & usable), by informal channel. The waste pickers collect and

crush at resident house. Actually in India financial benefits to informal channel is still to be explored due to its diversified nature. Informal recycling is now developed as big market in India. Price offered by formal recycling companies are low due to that informal recyclers prefer to process at their own site. Joining the technologically advanced processing unit can not only create the income opportunity for existing but also potential to generate jobs for many people.



What do you see as the barriers to responsible recycling?

People do not know about recycling and other helpful mechanism. Most of the people not believing that there is an environmental or social benefit of recycling, viewing it as an expert job not theirs. Due to improper administration by municipality the people are unwilling to give it to proper disposal site. Inadequate containers, lack of space, unreliable collection, no access to bring at site. Including people being too busy with other things to recycle, no establish household routine, and people forgetting to separate their waste/recyclables or put them out of collection.

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