

VOLUME - VI, ISSUE - I, Part - IV
AUGUST - 2017 to JANUARY - 2018

GENIUS

Peer Reviewed and Referred
UGC Listed Journal

Journal No. 47100

Ajanta Prakashan
Aurangabad. (M.S.)

AN INTERNATIONAL MULTI DISCIPLINARY HALF
YEARLY RESEARCH JOURNAL
GENIUS ISSN - 2279-0489
IMPACT FACTOR 4.248 (www.sjifactor.com)



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Principal
Shurparaka Educational & Technical Trust's
M. B. Harris College of Arts &
A. E. Kalsekar College of Commerce & Management
Nallasopara (W); Tal. Valsai, Dist. Palghar - 401 203.

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E Waste Management & Recent Studies

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Abstract

In an approach to bridge the digital divide, it is necessary to get an affordable, equitable and quality access to ICT. It is estimated that two third of world's population is still offline so there is a need to provide affordable access to internet for all. For developing countries, it has become a priority area to alleviate poverty by promoting access to ICT. At the same time, tremendous growth in use of ICT devices and services, faster change of technology and frequent innovations in ICT sector, had left the world with a threat of deterioration in environmental conditions and human health as the-waste of electronic and electrical equipment, which contains hazardous components, is still handled in an environmentally unfriendly manner mainly in developing nations. It is huge challenge for the nations to handle e-waste in responsible manner and protect the environment. In this paper an approach is made towards assessing the present situation of e-waste management globally as well as in India, considering the present regulations and guidelines. It is also a fact that major part of recycling of e-waste is being handled by informal sector that have little/no knowledge about the consequences of exposure to hazardous substances. To address the issue of e-waste management in a sustainable method, the concept of EPR (extended producer responsibility) will be helpful if the regulations incorporate monitoring and penalty clauses. The reuse of EEE has greater environmental and social benefits than recycling as it increases the useful life time of the ICT equipment and enables greater resource efficiency and energy efficiency. In developing nations, it can help in uplifting the status of the informal sector with help of education and employment. In addition to the technical, social and organizational aspects of the EEE-waste management system, it is also crucial to consider the economic aspects, if the system has to be made financially viable and sustainable along with being socially acceptable.

Introduction

Electronic industry is the world's largest and innovative industry for its kind. Every year tons of electronic items are shipped over oceans, however, after their usage time they are become a complex waste matter which consists of many hazardous heavy metals, acids, toxic chemicals and non-degradable plastics. Many are dumped, burnt or exported to recyclers. However, about 75% of e-wastes are uncertain for their use or finding ways to use them which includes refurbishment, remanufacture and reuse their parts for repair