

## Need to Enact Stringent Laws on E -Waste Recycling for Sustainable Future

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### ABSTRACT

Electronic waste is one of the fastest growing waste streams in 21st century. India has taken a baby step in respect to e waste management but still there is lack of stringent laws on e –waste recycling laws. It is high time now India should work in direction of enacting stringent laws on e waste recycling and its implementation.

**Keywords :** E waste , Recycling.

*“We share the earth not only with our fellow human beings*

*But with all the other creatures”*

*- By Dalai Lama*

### I. INTRODUCTION

Today we are living in 21<sup>st</sup> century and running a rat race in rapid developing technology world. Now time has come where robots and electronic machines are acting as servants of human being. Today almost any task can be done by a single click on smart phone which is one of awesome development in electronic world. All this technological development has definitely improved quality and quantity of human life but at the same time it is degrading our dear earth and its environment. We all can experience at every single minute of the day there is new invention of technology which is far better than existing and replaces the old technology. For Example just a few decades ago we all were using landline phone which was immediately replaced by simple basic mobile and which is now replaced by smart phone which is even getting smarter day by day which is

a very good part but a coin has other side too. Every outdated mobile is being added in the list of e waste. E-waste is one of the fastest-growing waste streams.

E Waste (Electronic waste) refers to the disposal of broken electronic components and materials. E waste materials may be valuable and recyclable, such as random access memory and reusable laptops. Hazardous materials such as cathode ray tube monitor, requires special handling in disposals. Common discarded electronic products include computer, tv set, cell phones, radio, Microwaves, washing machines etc.

There are various sources of e waste such as e waste generated from household devices example vacuum cleaner, microwave oven, washing machine, air condition. waste generated from

communication devices like cell phone , landline•  
phone, telegram , fax machine etc. waste generate  
from the products used for data processing such as•  
computers, computer devices like monitor,•  
speakers, keyboards, printers etc. the e waste  
generated from all the above sources has a bad  
effect both on environment and human being.

When we throw out our computers, they wind up  
in landfills, causing the possibility of toxic metal  
leaching into the groundwater. When e-waste is  
warmed up, toxic chemicals are released in to the  
air, damaging the atmosphere. Beside this e waste  
has worst effect on human beings. Electronic waste  
affects nearly every system in the human body  
because they contain a plethora of toxic  
components including **Mercury, Lead, Cadmium,**  
**Barium** and **Lithium**. Even the plastic casings of  
electronics products contain **Polyvinyl Chloride**.  
The health effects of these toxins on humans  
include birth defects, brain, heart, liver, kidney and  
skeletal system damage. They will also  
significantly affect the nervous and reproductive  
systems of the human body. To minimize the  
above harmful effects it is important to recycle it.

E waste recycling has a specific process and has  
following benefits.

- Reduces consumption of fresh raw material by  
making raw material available for re-use
- Reduces amount of e-waste going to landfills
- Reduces consumption of energy by minimizing  
product development lifecycle

Reduces or stop pollution caused by informal  
processing of e-waste.

Eliminate contamination of land and water by  
avoiding exposure of hazardous substance present  
in e-waste.

### Laws on E-waste recycling in India

Indian Constitution has given both fundamental  
duty and fundamental right in relation to  
environment. Under Article 21 of the Constitution  
protection of life and personal liberty also includes  
right to live in pollution free environment. As Per  
part IV directive principles of state policy, Article  
48 A states it is duty of state to issue direction for  
protection and improvement of environment and  
safeguarding of forest and wild life. Constitution in  
part IV A fundamental duties in Article 51 A (g)  
states that it is duty of every citizen of India to  
protect and improve environment including  
forest ,Lakes , Rivers and wild life and to have  
compassion for living creature .Following all  
above directions India introduces first e waste  
laws .

The various legislations enacted by the  
Government of India are:-

- 1) Guidelines for Environmentally Sound  
Management of E-waste, 2008; and
- 2) The e-waste (Management and Handling)  
Rules, 2011.

Under the Environment Protection Act 1986, the E  
waste (Management and Handling) Rules  
2011were enacted and became effective from 1<sup>st</sup>

may 2012. E-waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 including restrictions on usage of hazardous substances as per global best-practices and to prevent e-waste dumping in the country is a subject which is being dealt by Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF). This Department provides technical support to the MoEF in this regard. Thereafter, the e waste (Management) Rules 2016 were enacted in suppression of the 2011 rules and came into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016. However there is no provision of punishment for violation of any provision in the rule. Neither there is any body to ensure effective implementation of these guidelines and rules. In these guidelines only space and amount of e waste to be recycled has been discussed but details about process and quality of recycling has not been discussed. As the given rules & Regulations do not provide any sanction or pecuniary punishment for its violation. It cannot be called as effective measure to cope up with the Problem.

### **Suggestion**

- 1) Legal body should be established to supervise and keep a check on effective implementation of laws.
- 2) NGO's should be encouraged to work in the field of e waste recycling.
- 3) People and students should be educated about e waste recycling.
- 4) There should be uniform law on e waste recycling all over country.
- 5) There should be appropriate punishment for violation of these laws.

## **II. CONCLUSION**

It is a high time now; India needs to enact stringent laws on e waste recycling. Which should give a detail guideline and process of recycling e waste in environment friendly way.

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