E-WASTE Impact, Disposal and Recycling

Editor Dr. Suresh Kumar



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Preface

The world's fastest-growing waste stream at the moment is electronic waste, which is produced by electronic items that have reached the end of their useful lives. E-waste produced annually is worth over \$62.5 billion more than the GDP of most countries. E-waste is growing by an average of 2 million metric tons (Mt) per year and approximately 347 Mt of unrecycled E-waste is accumulated on the earth at present. According to the UN's Global E-waste Monitor 2022, the annual global production of E-waste was 57.4 Mt in 2021 while only 17.4% (9.98 Mt) of the total E-waste was collected and recycled globally. It means that many precious metals (gold, copper, silver, platinum, etc.) and other high-value recoverable critical materials (cobalt, palladium, indium, germanium, tin, etc.) worth US \$57 billion, dumped or burned as trash every year. However, some efforts are initiated by many nations seriously to recover precious materials from the junk of E-waste. In 2020, the E-waste recycling market was valued at \$49,880 million and is projected to almost triple to \$143,870 million by 2028. In addition, non-collected E-waste is also a serious health and environmental hazard as it contains several toxic substances. With the purpose of discretely collecting, effectually treating, and efficiently disposing of the E-waste, and diverting it from conventional landfills and open burning, it is requisite to integrate the informal sector with the formal sector. Hence, proper E-waste management is a great challenge to all developing countries including India. It is becoming a gigantic public health and environmental issue and is exponentially increasing by the day. Several countries have framed rules and regulations, policies, and guidelines to manage the E-waste for the producers, consumers, and recyclers. This book will be an anthology of scholarly articles devoted to different issues, challenges, prospects, and opportunities related to E-waste management and practices in the context to India. Besides in India, the huge growing population and increased disposal of electrical and electronic products have instigated serious concerns to the environment and human health. India generated 3rd highest volume of E-waste (3.2 Mt), after the top two countries China (10.1 Mt) and the USA (6.9 Mt). However, India's per capita (2.4 kg per capita) E-waste generation is 1/3rd the global average (7.3 kg per capita) while it is 3 times the global average in the USA. Nevertheless, India a country with a low recycling capacity (8 lakh tonnes annually) is an indication of big loss in terms of its inability to mine precious and critical materials from the E-waste and

simultaneously release hazardous constituents that impose severe threats to the environment and mankind.

The main objective of this scholarly anthology "E-WASTE: Impact, Disposal & Recycling" is to instigate genuine research works for evocative insight into the considerable content of E-waste and to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge among academicians, researchers, and entrepreneurs. This anthology of scholarly articles includes considerable content on E-waste like current scenarios, management, policies & best practices, issues, implications & opportunities, toxicity & health hazards, severe environmental threats, challenges & prospects, advancements in recycling, extended producer responsibility, opportunity in the circular economy, money out of waste, care for clean to green, Indian perspectives, initiatives of government; environment & health impact; methods of extractions, etc., and other associated issues. This book contains valuable research contributions in the form of book chapters authored by renowned and emerging researchers across the country.

Chapter 1 explores the work 'E-waste: Environment & Health Impact' compiled by Ms. Neeru Devi, Ms. Sunita Khatkar and Dr. Satish Kumar. Nowadays, massive amounts of electrical and electronic devices are produced worldwide and it is growing as a major concern for the environment after their use. E-waste is regarded as hazardous containing toxic elements of barium, lithium, polybrominated flame retardants, lead, mercury, and cadmium. Our ecosystem and public health are at risk due to the hazardous elements. Its poisonous emissions combined with uncontaminated soil and the atmosphere had negative effects either directly or indirectly on the entire environment. The current chapter analyzes the effects of Ewaste disposal on the environment and human well-being. A clean environment is brought about by creating eco-design equipment, gathering E-waste, and safely disposing of it.

Chapter 2 comprises a study on 'Government Initiatives for E-waste Management in India' compiled by Dr. Preety Aneja. This chapter investigates the various initiatives undertaken by the Indian Government to address the burning issue of E-waste and highlights the key milestones in the journey towards sustainable management. A study on the pivotal role of the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2011, 2016, 2018, and 2022, including their amendments in July 2023 and latest in March 2024 is presented. The government's establishment of E-waste management centers across the country to facilitate the collection, segregation, and recycling of it is presented. To create awareness and invoke behavioral change among individuals, businesses, etc., several campaigns and awareness programs launched by the Government are also discussed.

Chapter 3 contains the 'Impacts of E-waste, Its Recycling for Economic Development' elaborated by Dr. Heena Gupta. With the rapidly growing technological industries, electronic devices and gadgets; the manufacturing of E-

waste has also been increasing day by day. Various unsound activities like dumping of discarded products on land or in water bodies, and combustion of nonbiodegradable plastic coatings of electronic gadgets are considered harmful to the ecosystem including living beings and climate as they release toxic particles. During manufacturing, reprocessing and disposal of electronic products, various hazardous materials are released into the air leading to air pollution. The leaching of poisonous industrial effluent into underground aquifers damages the water quality and makes them unfit for drinking as well as for any other agricultural purposes. The present analysis of manufacturing, usage, processing and reprocessing of e-devices suggests that numerous hazardous materials are being released into the air which can have irreversible damage to mankind and the environment.

Chapter 4 explores the 'Management, Challenges and Role of Recycling for Ewaste' written by Dr. Aparna M. Pawar, Dr. Suhas N. Patil, and Dr. Ghanashyam B. Bhagat. E-waste has occurred as a demanding global concern due to the escalating proliferation of electronic devices and their rapid obsolescence. The impact of Ewaste on the environment and human health is characterized by the existence of hazardous or toxic materials, posing a significant threat to ecosystems. This chapter provides a concise overview of multifaceted aspects of E-waste, encompassing its environmental and human health impact, methods of disposal and the imperative role of recycling in mitigating adverse consequences. The essential role of consumer awareness in fostering responsible E-waste management education campaigns and the integration of recyclability in product design are highlighted as essential components in promoting sustainable practices at both individual and industrial levels.

Chapter 5 covers the 'E-waste Recycling and Methods of Metal Extraction' as explained by Ms. Sunita Khatkar, Ms. Neeru Devi and Dr. Santosh Kumar Dubey. Dumping and disposing of waste into water bodies is one of the main causes of water pollution. E-waste is one of the wide streams that is estimated to be expanding the fastest in the world among all other waste types. Because E-waste comprises hazardous constituents when it corrodes from any physical or chemical source or is exposed to intense UV radiation, these materials may leak into the surrounding soil, water bodies, and atmosphere, endangering public health. Recycling of E-waste has many advantages beyond safeguarding the environment and public health. However, a numeral of existing tasks is stopping the electronic recycling industry from climbing up. In this chapter, the authors explore how E-waste recycling is done and why we should concentrate on scaling it up. How, we can extract precious metals, renovating E-waste pollution threats into metal resources thereby increasing the income and budget of the country?

Chapter 6 overviews the 'Biochemical Hazards Associated with E-waste Generated Organic Pollutants' review by Dr. Komal Jakhar. The lifespan of the majority of electronic gadgets is constantly decreasing as a result of swift innovations

and upgradation in equipment features and capabilities. The unsystematic disposal and recycling of electric and electronic waste led to the generation of several hazardous chemicals, causing adverse environmental consequences. Α comprehensive evaluation of the prevalence and negative impact of toxins derived from E-waste is urgently required to restore environmental integrity and facilitate global, economic, and societal progress. The highly persistent organic contaminants released from E-waste are characterized by their resistance to degradation, extended environmental persistence, and intercontinental migration. They extensively pollute the air, water, and soil resources and exert long-term and severe biochemical effects on plants, insects, birds, animals, and humans through biotoxicity, bio-persistence, and bio-amplifications. This chapter highlights the toxicity hazards of the dirty dozen on living beings and suggests plausible preventive measures for judicial e-waste management to mitigate their generation and exposure.

Chapter 7 represents 'E-waste: Care for Clean to Green' described by Ms. Komal Bharti, Dr. Vijay Kumar and Dr. Surender Kumar. The pollution in our living environment is getting worse, not just because of the quantity of resources being used more carelessly, indiscriminately, and excessively. Daily garbage is not collected, categorized, or disposed of properly or handled under regulations. The majority of electronic garbage is collected through facilities for spontaneous collection or collectors and is gathered to craft villages for recycling. These recycling facilities are small, most of them harm the environment and the health of their employees and are dirty, filthy, and lacking in contemporary technology. Consequently, investment policies, loan and technology incentives, and other measures are required for formal dismantling and recycling facilities with full recovery and recycling capabilities. The creation of an international framework for the treatment of hazardous waste, which includes the management and tracking of waste transportation operations to determine the origin and destination of hazardous waste sources, is currently the primary issue that has to be resolved.

Chapter 8 describes 'E-waste Management through EPR: A Comprehensive Review' presented by Dr. Chhavi Kiran and Ms. Zeenat Madan. Technological advancements across the globe have opened multiple gateways in different industries. But it has also led to the growth of heaps of E-waste across the globe. The major concern related to E-waste is its management. Different strategies like incineration, recycling, landfilling, and exporting are being adopted for management of the Ewaste. However, all these strategies have implications for the environment and the health of stakeholders involved in the process. Consequently, the Governments of different countries have been making efforts to address the concerns. One of the solutions proposed for it is in the light of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). The EPR concept aims to ensure that a discarded E-waste product is dealt well with after it completes its life cycle. The current chapter assesses the different possible EPR approaches and their systems which can be implemented well in different nations. Chapter 9 includes the 'E-waste: Eco-Health Impacts, Challenges, and Recycling Innovations' as presented by Dr. M. Malarvizhi, Ms. R. Ramya, Mr. R. Savith Krishnan and Dr. G. Suganthi. This chapter examines the most recent advances in science and technology related to electronic garbage. This study explores the harmful effects of E-waste on ecosystems and human health, emphasizing the need for sustainable practices to mitigate environmental and human impact. The chapter discusses novel disposal strategies and gives insight into environmentally friendly options that solve the issues provided by traditional disposal processes. This chapter is an invaluable resource for scholars, policymakers, and industry professionals, providing insights into the most recent advancements in global E-waste management and mitigation. This study focuses on typical E-waste disposal methods like landfilling and incineration, highlighting environmental and societal issues such as soil and water contamination, air pollution, and resource inefficiencies.

Chapter 10 explores 'Navigating Depths: Challenges & Strategies in Seawater Ewaste Management' an overview by Ms. Kavitha Datchanamoorthy, Dr. B. Padmavathi, and Mr. Thivaghar M. This chapter examines the challenges associated with seawater E-waste management and explores potential strategies to mitigate its adverse impacts on marine ecosystems. Firstly, the chapter delves into the environmental hazards posed by improper disposal of E-waste in seawater, including contamination of marine habitats, ingestion by marine organisms, and the release of hazardous chemicals into the aquatic environment. Next, the chapter represents various strategies for addressing seawater E-waste management challenges. In conclusion, effective management of seawater E-waste presents complex challenges that require coordinated action at the global, regional, and local levels. By implementing a combination of regulatory, educational, technological, and community-based initiatives, it is possible to mitigate the environmental impacts of E-waste on marine ecosystems and move towards a more sustainable approach to electronic consumption and disposal.

Chapter 11 covers the 'Unlocking Wealth: Comprehensive Guide to Gold Recovery from E-waste' represented by Dr. Swapnil J. Rajoba, Dr. Sachin B. Kulkarni, Dr. Vijay S. Mohite and Dr. Rajendra D. Kale. The extraction of gold from E-waste presents a multifaceted endeavor encompassing environmental, technological, and economic dimensions. This chapter provides a comprehensive overview of the methods, challenges, and implications associated with the recovery of gold from E-waste. Gold recovery from E-waste primarily relies on chemical processes designed to dissolve the precious metal from electronic components while leaving other materials intact. Technological innovations play a pivotal role in advancing E-waste recycling practices, enhancing efficiency, and sustainability. Despite its potential benefits, the recovery of gold from E-waste faces several challenges and considerations. Regulatory compliance, particularly regarding the handling and disposal of hazardous chemicals, imposes stringent requirements on E-waste recycling facilities.

Chapter 12 Overview of the 'Advanced Techniques in E-waste Recycling: Manual to High-Tech Solutions' review by Mr. Gautam Shekhar Kamat, Dr. Vishal Hareshgiri Goswami and Mr. Sanket Amrutlal Mistry. The escalating volume of Ewaste worldwide necessitates innovative and efficient processing techniques to manage and recycle these materials sustainably. This chapter provides a comprehensive analysis of the evolution and advancements in E-waste processing techniques, focusing on the transition from manual dismantling to sophisticated, high-tech recycling solutions. It begins with an overview of traditional manual dismantling practices, highlighting their benefits in terms of employment and the ability to salvage working parts for reuse, alongside the significant health and safety challenges faced by workers in low-regulation environments. The chapter delves into the specifics of mechanical separation techniques, including the use of magnets, eddy currents, and Trommel screens, to efficiently sort metal and plastic fractions for recycling, thereby reducing environmental impact through meticulous containment and treatment of hazardous emissions.

Chapter 13 contains the 'E-Waste in Indian Perspectives' elaborated by Dr. Nupur Gupta and Dr. Mandeep Kaur Sandhu. E-waste presents a rapidly escalating environmental and health challenge in India. Driven by the swift adoption of technology and increasing consumerism, India stands as one of the world's leading producers of E-waste. The informal sector dominates the management of this waste, employing rudimentary and hazardous methods that pose severe threats to human health and ecological systems. This chapter examines the volume of E-waste generated in India, the dominant contributors, and the prevalent disposal practices. This chapter offers an in-depth look at how India manages electronic waste. It examines the challenges posed by the widespread use of technology and explores how cultural attitudes influence E-waste disposal. Furthermore, the chapter highlights innovative initiatives and community-driven approaches aimed at addressing the E-waste challenge in India.

Chapter 14 contains the 'Toxicity Concerns of E-waste of Lithium-ion Batteries' elaborated by Dr. Komal Jakhar. Advancements in solid-state batteries are spurred by rising demand for portable electronics. Because of its superior energy density, lightweight construction, and extended lifespan over alternative technologies, lithium-ion batteries (LIB) are the favored option in electronic devices. Because of the rapid advancement in electronic gadgets and capability upgrades, most electronic devices have a declining lifespan. The global emergence of digital societies worsened the issue due to fast urbanization, modernization, and astute business practices. The present study explores toxicity concerns of LIB technology and their recycling methods. The use of eco-friendly recycling methodologies facilitates proper utilization, safety, and sustainability in LIB applications.

Chapter 15, an additional chapter, covers the 'Measure of Spent Nuclear Fuel in Dry Sealed Casks by Muon Tomography' represented by Dr. Sonali Bhatnagar. Ewaste, a rapidly growing waste in our country with many heavy metals introduced

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into the atmosphere, is less fatal as compared to the nuclear radioactive waste generated by nuclear power plants. This article summarizes different methods to detect the radioactive waste from these nuclear plants and their disposal. The different nuclear waste materials are described along with Monte-Carlo-based simulations of the detection methods. The parameters are studied and the simulation results based on Geant4 have been presented. The muon scattering, energy loss and radiation length have been calculated. The present and future status of decommissioning of nuclear power plants around the globe is also discussed.

This book brings together academicians and researchers who specialize in various aspects of E-waste and enthusiastically presents up-to-date information on various issues related to E-waste that are currently plaguing the world.

Dr. Suresh Kumar Editor

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