

Electronic Waste Generation and Disposal among Bulk Consumers in Kerala with Special Reference to Thrikakkara Municipality

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The present study focuses on the generation of e-waste and management practices adopted by bulk consumers as well as to identify the extent of applicability of E-waste (Management) Rules, 2016. It has been carried out using purposive sampling among bulk consumers in Thrikakkara Municipality of Ernakulam District, Kerala. It has reported that desktops contribute the highest to the e-waste. Despite having a replacement policy, they only replaced their electronic products once they become completely non-repairable. The sample bulk users discarded their e-waste through a tie-up with registered recyclers outside Kerala. But this was limited to financial and State government offices and IT firms, while other bulk users such as educational institutions and hospitals were non-cooperative in disseminating the information.

Introduction

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) or E-waste are those electrical and electronic products that are disposed without the intention of reuse irrespective of being in working or non-working condition (Baldé, Wang, Kuehr, & Huisman, 2015). Though a standard definition for e-waste is lacking, the European Union's WEEE Directive has put forward a definition which is widely accepted and followed. Accordingly "*Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) which is waste includes all components, sub-assemblies and consumables, which are part of the product at the time of discarding*" (United Nations Environment Programme, 2007, p. 13).

In India, according to the E-waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011, e-waste is defined as "*waste electrical and electronic equipment, whole or in part or rejects from the manufacturing and repair process, which are intended to be discarded*" (Central Pollution Control Board, 2011, p. 2). Bulk consumers are bulk users of electrical and electronic equipment such as central government or state government departments, public sector undertakings, banks, educational institutions, multinational organizations, international agencies and private companies that are registered under the Factories Act, 1948 and Companies Act, 1956. They have to maintain records on e-waste generated and have to