E-waste: A Problem or An Opportunity?

It can be clearly seen that the production of electronic goods continuously increasing. The main reason behind this is simple, growing demand. Companies are manufacturing what their customers needs. For example, there are millions of smartphone in the market and still, companies are collectively producing millions of smartphones for their customers. This way it can be estimated that there is the exponential growth of electronic devices in the market. Due to this the electronic waste in the market is also increasing. A major chunk of the crowd does not know what should be done or how these devices should be disposed of. This condition is often referred to as a tsunami of e-waste by the United Nations.



After many years when no one was there with the solution to this problem, people started using the problem to create opportunities. The thought was a digitally connected world can help us in the plans of sustainable development goals.

By following practices of electronic recycling, the CO2 generated in the emissions while mining earth can be lowered down. On a huge level, this makes sense as electronic products have a hundred times more gold then the gold ore.

Not only just by electronic recycling but reusing the components, again and again, can also provide a huge economic benefit. This can be understood by a circular electronic system. According to this system, the resources are not extracted and wasted. Rather than this, the resources are reused in the market. The only disadvantage to the whole plan is that the industry of mining may face a slowdown but in a broad perspective, the industry of electronic recycling provider is also generating employment. Now let us see some benefits of electronic recycling:

- Prevention of toxic material: A lot of electronic products are mixed with the general garbage. Due to this, it gets mixed in the landfills. The presence of hazardous elements in the components like batteries and other metals damage the land. Nobody takes the responsibility of this and the land is polluted. As a consumer, it should be everyone's responsibility to make sure that these components must be recycled properly.
- Reduction in energy usage: <u>Electronic recycling</u> is the alternative way of production. Through this, useful material is harvested from the useless devices and then supplied to the companies so that they can use that. This way the volume of new material decreases in the market. This way the cost is also reduced.



- Saving the mother nature: Even if the component cannot be used again in the market but it is still precious. The chemicals inside the components are very valuable and can be used in other devices. As a result of this, the need for new material for the company decreases. This effectively decreases the extraction of precious metals and also reduces the carbon footprint.
- **Secured data:** A lot of people irresponsibly dispose of their personal products like laptop and mobiles. They don't know that the data can be recovered very easily. It can be easily misused by a bad person and according he can blackmail the owner. This is the main reason for identity and data frauds in the world. The best way to avoid this is **proper disposal of data**. This way information can be destroyed permanently.

