

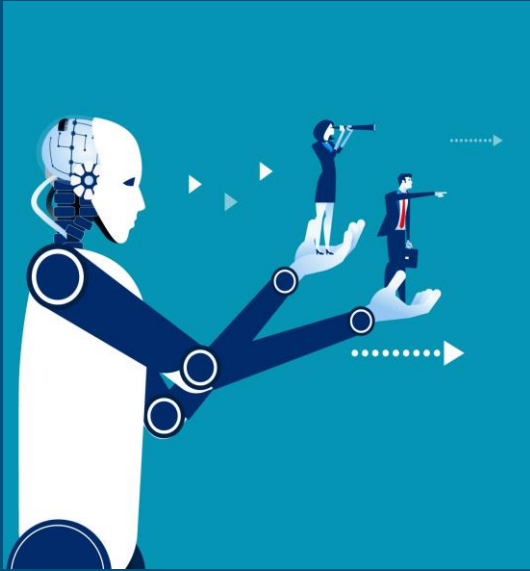
Tech Sect Presents

**E-Waste
An Important Global Environmental
and
Health Issue**



By
Akarsh
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Akarsh Kain



Hi, I am the group Leader and we all have contributed equally to let the students know about the e-waste and why it is harmful.

We have made few critical thinking questions that let others think about how E-waste is affecting our environment and what steps some electronic companies are taking to oppose it.

Konark Raj Mishra

My teammates and I got to learn the following things while researching about this case study:

- 1) E-waste is a major issue in our society and is usually not taken seriously because most people are unaware of the harmful effects of E-waste to our natural resources.
- 2) Most of the E-waste can be recycled or refurbished instead of being thrown away. Statistics show that 60% of the e-waste is thrown away while 20-40% is recycled. These statistics can be improved worldwide if everyone takes an initiative.

Pratik Birajdar

- Over **46 million tons** of e-waste are produced globally and of that, almost **50 - 80 percent** of this is shipped to developing countries like China, India, Pakistan and many more.
- Recycling the e-waste within their own country should be encouraged and laws should be put in place to make sure that nobody break it.



Omar Beltran

Our case study consists of the safe disposal of e-waste.

What is e-waste?

E-waste is a term that describes old, end-of-life, or discarded electronic devices. Certain components of electronics are hazardous to the environment which is why the safe disposal of e-waste is important.



Pranav Kalra

As part of its global CSR strategy, Nokia India has launched a recycling program for hand-sets regardless of what brand they are.

Apple which has been criticized for being slow to phase out toxic chemicals in its products has an ambitious recycling program where they aim to recycle 19 million pounds of e-waste per year by 2010.



Case Summary

Emissions from unregulated recycling sites in developing nations can cause damage to human health and the environment. 80% of the children in Guiyu, China have respiratory ailments and considered to be at high risk of lead poisoning.

The Basal Convention is an international treaty that is made to reduce the movement of hazardous waste between nations. This mainly prevents e-waste from being exported to developing nations. The United States is the only developed nation who hasn't ratified the Basal Convention despite signing it. This means they are still legally free to export their e-waste to developing nations

Dell Reconnect is a partnership between Goodwill and Dell that began in 2004 with the goal of offering free and responsible computer recycling.

- Collected more than 6.6 millions tons of e-waste since 2007
- Became the first company in the IT industry to ban e-waste exportation to developing nations

Case Study Question 1

What specific actions should Dell and Goodwill take to strengthen the Reconnect program? How can Dell monitor the large number of participants including employees and business partners at over 2,000 Goodwill locations to ensure that program functions as intended?

A- Dell and Goodwill can Consider the following Strategies:

Compost | Audit their Facility | Reduce Packaging | Eliminate Bottled Water | Give Food Waste to Pigs | Reduce Paper Consumption | Measure Their E-Waste

> Dell can use the one-to-one matching program like many companies do towards donations at NGO's , where they can alter it to do a one-to-one E-waste matching as they every employee can monitor their waste production and company can have a reward program in return

Case Study Question 2

Why do you think it is that the United States, the largest generator of e-waste worldwide, is the only industrialized nation that has not yet ratified the Basal Convention?

A- I believe that its because US is the largest producer of E-Waste so If they follow the Basal Convention they wont be able to send their waste to other countries. As, the number of tech companies in US rise a lot so this waste produce wont reduce and being aware of that fact they would not want to stop the waste in their own Country.

Case Study Question 3

Do research to learn of any proposed or pending legislation intended to close some of the gaps in current federal law. Write a brief summary of your findings.

A- After some research I was able to find out that according to the federal exemptions, the electronics wastes from US can be legally exported to developing countries from US. But according to RCRA, hazardous waste like cathode ray tube TVs and monitors cannot be exported without the consent. According to the EPA rules about the exemption of various kind of e-waste, the export rules do not apply to the products like CRT TVs and many other hazardous products and they are being exported as for recycling. Many state have waste laws stricter than the federal laws.

Case Study Created Question 1

What approach can the United States take in order to not ship its e-waste to developing countries?

A- United States can work on building suitable sites for recycling purposes, although it is going to cost more than exporting the e waste to developing countries in long term it's a much viable option.

Case Study Created Question 2

How can companies use e-waste policies in their CSR?

A- Companies can use E-waste policies in their CSR if they implement recycling as a part of a ethical code the organization should pursue and maybe set goals to award people based on their recycling goals.

What we learned

- Importance of reusing, refurbishing, and recycling e-waste
- How harmful e-waste can be for the environment and people
- The U.S. needs to update their policies on e-waste

The End

Any questions?