

Environmental Impact of Cell Phone Disposal

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Introduction

The invention of cell phone has changed the dynamics of technology in global world where connecting with people is not a matter of days but a matter of seconds. According to Johnson et al. (2012: 1), evolution of telephone to mobile phone or cellular phones has taken the world by storm through its invention and it being easy to use and easy to carry. There are certain benefits that can be yielded from use of cell phone and with the introduction of internet and era of globalisation; cell phones have become a necessity. However, with the benefits that cell phone brings, there are certain things that are harmful for production and usage of cell phones. This essay tends to highlight environmental impact from disposal of cell phones because cell phone is made up of different hazardous substances such as lead, copper, chromium, cadmium and lithium-ion that are hazardous materials.

Discussion

Cell phone disposal has been a debated topic for a while now because of fact that hazardous materials are used in production of cell phones. According to Tanskanen (2012: 129), recycling practices are uncommon in cell phone industry as the potential threat from disposal of cell phones has not been properly assessed by researchers and practitioners. All of products that are used in production of cell phone contain toxic materials that are poisonous such as zinc, lead, mercury, copper and lithium that are might decompose in land, ooze into sea water and pollute the soil that affects environment to a great extent. According to Li et al. (2012: 469), awareness of hazardous material is vital to spread due to the fact that these can cause serious harm to environment by decomposing toxic materials into environment that affect lives of human and species.

Moreover, as stated in study conducted by Bhutta, Omar and Yang (2011: 1) that electrical and electronic components market has grown exponentially but along with the

success of this equipment, it also brings potential threats to environment due to disposal of toxic materials. Products being dumped into trash and no formal management of recycling centres have been becoming a significant challenge for policy makers and other concerned authorities because this poses threat to life of humans and all living things. The concern here is absence of proper management system for managing cell phone disposal as it has been harmful to human life and environments because of toxic materials. Throughout the product life cycle of mobile phone, production emits greenhouse gases that affects the environment, with cell phone usage emitting harmful radiations and ultimately, disposition which disposes toxic elements into environment (Senthil and Sakthi 2015: 2).

Conclusion

Overall, it can be concluded that cell phone disposal is a major issue that has been affecting environment and there are also hazards associated with its production and usage. It is recommended at the end to set up formal disposal management system so environmental impact of mobile phones can be mitigated.

References

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