

www.dnet.org.bd

# Research Paper

e-Waste: A Growing Concern for ICT-based  
Growth and Development A First Cut Analysis

60007

RP-Series

Sarwar Uddin Ahmed, PhD

**D.Net**  
Development Research Network

e-Waste: A Growing Concern for ICT-based  
Growth and Development  
A First Cut Analysis

Sarwar Uddin Ahmed, PhD



Dhaka 2010

---

---

# e-Waste: A Growing Concern for ICT-based Growth and Development : A First Cut Analysis

Sarwar Uddin Ahmed, PhD

First Edition Published: Ekushey Boi Mela, February, 2010

*Some Rights Reserved*

The publication may be reproduced or distributed for non-commercial purpose in any form or by any means, or stored in a data base or retrieval system. However, proper quotation and reference is mandatory.

Cover and Style : Shahjahan Kazi

Published in Bangladesh by Ananya Raihan  
D.Net (Development Research Network)  
6/8, Humayun Road, Block B  
Mohammadpur, Dhaka 1207  
Bangladesh.  
E-mail : [info@dnet.org.bd](mailto:info@dnet.org.bd)  
Web Address : [www.dnet.org.bd](http://www.dnet.org.bd)  
Tel : 8156772, 9131424, 8124976  
Fax : 88 02 8142021

Price: BDT 70

ISBN: 978-984-33-1102-3

Printed By : Pathway, House-7 (4th floor), Road-2, Block-C, Rampura Bonoshree, Dhaka

*The views in this publication are those of authors only and do not necessarily reflect the views of the organisations involved in this publication.*

---

---

## About D.Net

---

D.Net (Development Research Network) is a not-for-profit research institution in Bangladesh, established in 2001. D.Net's vision is a society where information and knowledge facilitates all stakeholders' participation in generation of wealth and its equitable distribution for poverty alleviation. Its mission is to become a premier organisation in Bangladesh and beyond by undertaking research and various action programmes in the areas, where information and knowledge can contribute to poverty alleviation, economic growth and peace.

During initial years of activities, D.Net's main focus was research on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for poverty alleviation. D.Net's in-depth research in the area of ICTs for poverty alleviation has drawn attention of stakeholders not only in Bangladesh, but also across the globe.

Under its Mission 2010, D.Net's five year strategic plan, D.Net conducts research and implements important action programmes primarily in six thematic areas:

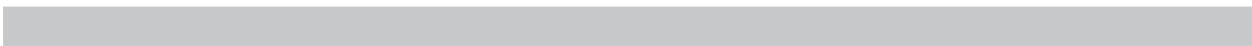
- Access to Information and Knowledge
- Enhancing Business Competitiveness for Economic Growth
- Governance and Human Rights
- Human Resource Development
- Institutional Capacity Development
- Economic and Development Policy Research

D.Net also undertakes policy influencing activities, for bringing burning issues before the policy makers and stakeholders to create awareness and to take proper actions.

D.Net has started to play a visible role in the research arena within the national boundary and in South Asia through involvement with BRAC, SAPANA, CENTAD, Sarvodoya, APC, IDS and ICRIER. It has also gone beyond South Asia through telecentre.org, Canada; ICTSD, Switzerland; IKED, Sweden; ADB Institute, Japan; and ELDIS, UK. D.Net is a member of Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP), One World South Asia, and PANAsia Network of IDRC.

D.Net received the Gender & ICT Award at 2005 for its innovation to linking new ICT tools for improving access to livelihood information by the poor people, particularly women and the handicapped, through the introduction of the “mobile lady”. D.Net also received Manthan Award at 2008 and 2009 for its contribution on e-Content development and e-Education sector.

---



---

## About the Series

---

The objective of the research paper series is to bring important issues to the readers on various topics of public domain, based on the findings, observations and insights revealed from D.Net's in house research activities and action programmes.

This research paper is an analysis prepared under Theme 6: Economic and Development Policy Research

This study aimed at quantifying and judging the awareness level of residents regarding e-waste generated in Dhaka city. Accordingly, a survey has been conducted on households of Dhaka city and both qualitative and quantitative methods were used in the study. The findings of the study revealed that, a huge quantity of e-waste is generated in Dhaka from PC and cell phone alone per annum. Majority of the respondents supported the need of developing a hazard free e-waste management system in the country. This study would be helpful in creating a baseline for more detailed study in future for this emerging problem in Bangladesh.

*D.Net believes that this publication will meet the demand of policy makers, researchers, academics and activists for analysis on the mentioned topic. Readers are most welcome to send their queries, comments, criticism and suggestions for further improvement of D.Net's publications.*

---

---

## Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Purpose of the study	2
Data and Methods	2
Quantifying E-waste in Dhaka City	3
Public Awareness Survey on E-waste	6
Findings of the Survey	7
Key Findings	11

## List of Abbreviations:

PC	–	Personal Computer
WTP	–	Willingness to pay
E-waste	–	Electronic Waste
LCD	–	Liquid Crystal Displays
PBDE	–	Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers
BDT	–	Bangladesh Taka

## Study Team

### Survey Team

Mr. Raihanul Bari, Graduate Student, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)

Mr. Saif Mahmood, Graduate Student, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)

### Photographs

Mr. Safayet Rahman, Department of Management, Dhaka University

Mr. Mahamudul Hassan, Department of Management, Dhaka University

---