Consequently, up to now, there has been no clear definition in China of WEEE from either the official or academic arena. Basic data such as WEEE sources, generation, flow and recycling rates are also unavailable.

Most Chinese WEEE recycling activities are spontaneous. The existing WEEE flow system, shown in Figure 2, depicts the understanding of the current situation drawn from an investigation in Beijing. In order to dispose this urgent situation, government should help to do the following actions: to set up and support WEEE management institutions and policies; to set up a collection network for domestic WEEE; to help develop standards and regulations for WEEE management; to develop key technologies and equipment for WEEE recycling.

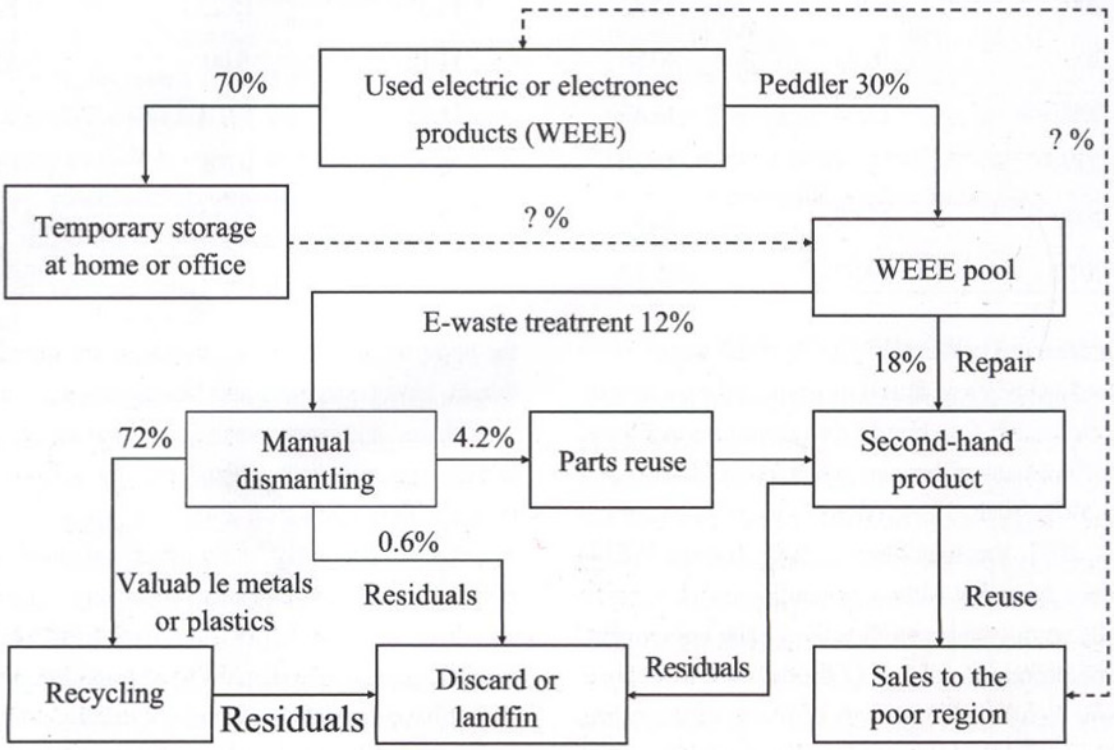

Fig. 2. WEEE Flow in China.

3. The current status of recovery and treatment of WEEE at home and broad

The recovery of WEEE had been firstly done by USA Minine Bureau in 1969. It was attempted to reclaim precious metal from discarded military equipments. The processing capacity reached 0.23 t/h in the examination. The treatmental process could be summarized as follow: the WEEE was firstly scrapped by hammer mill, and then the copper and aluminum were reclaimed by pneumatic classification, magnetic separation removing iron and vortex separation; at last, the metal concentrate was reclaimed by electrical separator. However, this technology was not commercially developed because of higher cost. Thereafter, the recovery of WEEE rapidly developed with the governmental recognition of the second resource utilization and enviormental protection. Especially in Europe, many factory of WEEE recovery had been set up.

The recovery of electrical broad can be classified into two categories: recycle of electronic components and recovery of metal, plastic and so on. Poland has established modern complex recycling plant to dispose discarded military equipment and telecom equipment in 1991. The SRAB Company of Sweden is the largest recycling plant, which has been devoted to actualize and exploit mechnical disposing technology and equipment for WEEE. The disposing process of WEEE is summarized in the Figure 3, which can subsume the present basic mechnical disposing methods.