Abstracts


The purpose of the study reported in this book is twofold: first, to describe the social and economic impact of the college on various communities, and second, to predict institution-related inputs that are basic to this impact. This analysis can help the educational planner in making decisions on institutional location, expansion, and programming. Further, it can aid in research and development work on social indicators, social-area analysis, and community-simulation models. Perhaps most important, it can help indicate the social and economic investment necessary to transform a community into an optimal level.


This book is addressed to the community college instructor and is concerned with his effect on his students and with defining his role as that of "a person engaged in bringing about changes in other people."

It's explained that the teacher, being both a person and a practitioner, is better able to help his students if he understands himself. The author explains that the teacher who works in isolation, unaware of the main currents surrounding him, has an immature approach that not only stifles growth, but also ignores present practices.

Generally, the author is encouraging the teacher to relate to the people around him. He says, "The community college has assumed the particularly difficult task of mass education. We feel that by pointing out the negative and by presenting some of the pitfalls, we are encouraging the instructor to become aware of institutional realities so that he will be in a better position to approach this task with a mature professional outlook."

Even though the four contributions that make up this book are from authors with varied backgrounds, a major concern emerges: the need for sensitive governmental decision makers who must think deeply about people before beginning to think about bricks, concrete, glass, and steel.

Lee Rainwater, a Harvard professor of sociology, examines some of the effects of urban design on the lower class as well as the effect of various urban social processes on design and spatial arrangements. Bruno Bettelheim, professor of education and of psychology and psychiatry at the University of Chicago, wrote a section on mental health in the slums, beginning with problems in the homes where he says all mental health is created or destroyed for children.

M. Paul Friedberg, a New York architect and faculty member at Columbia University, discusses the problems that have been created by technology and big government, keying in on those associated with the development of urban space. Wolf Von Eckardt, architecture critic of the Washington Post, provides an overall discussion of the problems being created by faulty urban design.


The focus of Urban America is on the evolution and development of American urban society. Within the evolutionary perspective, this book offers the reader a systematic introduction to the writings on urbanism and urbanization in America.

The book is divided into five sections, each of which includes an introductory essay and overview by the editors. Section one provides a sociological analysis of historical materials on the early growth and development of North American cities. Section two presents a sociological examination of current patterns of urbanism and urbanization, while section three's central emphasis is on issues concerning the organization of urban life styles.

Section four discusses a variety of contemporary urban problems such as housing, urban education, racism, poverty, and urban violence. Section five is concerned with mechanisms for effecting change within the urban setting. The readings in this section illustrate the variety of different solutions to urban problems, including strategies of traditional political theorists, the techniques of activists, the proposals of professional planners, and the visions of utopianists.
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