

THE SOCIAL ISSUES

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INTRODUCTION

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- Modern day urban planning sprang from architecture and landscape architecture.
- But planners have recognized that designs have powerful social implications.
- Many plans did not workout in broader sense and they only had good physical plans.

INTRODUCTION conti..

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- Physical design alone does not solve community's social issues concerning family, economic, drugs and alcohol problems.
- The Pruitt-Igoe public housing was one such case in St.Louis which did not address social issues.
- A number of projects (high rise buildings) were turned down after the Pruitt-Igoe case.

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The Social Issues in Planning for Housing

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- Land use controls and decisions about capital facilities will affect the housing schemes.
- This either integrates or separates housing facilities.
- Policies and facilities isolate low income workers from the higher categories increasing unemployment.

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The Social Issues in Planning for Housing conti...

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- Single-family housing in many cases leads to the problems like people leaving the town since they can't afford to live in there.
- Many prefer group homes and get concerned with zoning laws whether they allow parent apartments to be built next to the single-family houses.
- Land-use controls that permit homes, workplaces and child-care facilities to be placed closely can make a community more happier and prosperous.

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The Yonkers Housing Case

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- Yonkers is an old city located in Westchester county, New York.
- The city has 27 public housing projects and 26 out of those were built in the south west corner.
- The political factor came out in the south west corner as the whites didn't want housing to be introduced there.

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The Yonkers Housing Case conti...

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- The case was taken upto the court since the white population feared the blacks would live in those low income houses.
- But under the threat of huge fines and legal issues from the U.S. Supreme court (Judge Sand), the whites had to make way for housing in 1988.
- Judge Sand meanwhile had a house in Pound Ridge in Yonkers and protestors marched to oppose his decision.

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The Yonkers Housing Case conti...

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- Finally after some years and some legal hearings 200 housing units were built.
- A new scheme of 80/20 was introduced in which 20% of the houses were at below market rent.
- After three decades of struggle, the Yonkers housing case is yet far from over.

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The Special Case of Private Communities

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- The rapid growth of private communities in the United States has been quite prominent.
- By the end of 1990s an estimate showed more than 40 million living in over 200,000 private communities.
- A private community has it's own master plans and municipality and the legislative body act like judges for the changes in the plan.

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The Special Case of Private Communities conti...

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- Private communities are usually built in suburbia or outside metropolitan areas.
- Due to the problem of land assembly, private communities are rarer in metropolitan cities.
- Private communities ultimately incorporate as separate political entities with examples like Reston in Virginia with Columbia, Maryland trying for a political entity.

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The Special Case of Private Communities conti...

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- The private communities also named as 'gated communities' usually allow only the people concerned with the community to move in there.
- Edward Blakely, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley showed concern about the growing private communities.

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The Special Case of Private Communities conti...

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- Green Valley in Nevada is a private community built in 1978 and is expected to increase the population to 60000 in the 20th century.
- Blakely and David Guterson both criticized the private communities by saying they affect the racial and class integration in U.S.
- Clearly this pattern of development has social implications that are far away from physical designs.

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The Problem of Homelessness

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- The number of homeless people increased in the 1980s and 1990s.
- This worries not only the planners but also the social workers, attorneys, the police, and the mental health professionals.
- The reasons for homeless is basically unemployment, addiction of drugs and alcohol.

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The Problem of Homelessness conti...

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- The planners with their housing policies can help to reduce homelessness.
- The planner's role in this case is to advocate for the low cost housing.
- For those with mental illness, the planners can introduce new zoning laws which allow group homes and thereby reduce the homelessness.

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Other Issues: The Social Side of Economic Development

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- The economic development of a certain community has side effects on the society.
- The use of 'Eminent domain' which means lands will be occupied by the Government by giving compensation to the community.
- The development on that land will be feasible or not, is a big question for planners.
- Some like Norman Krumholz, the former planning director for the city of Cleveland was against this.

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Transportation Planning

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- Transportation Planning is an important component for social development.
- The 'Urban renewal' program mainly concerned with occupying lands for urban expressways destroys the fabrics of neighborhood.
- The transportation planning decides the public's access to work, to public services and to a whole range of activities.

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Environmental Policy

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- Environmental decisions can have major social consequences.
- One person's environmental protection would be other person's reason for unemployment.
- Environmental policy which has more of a physical effect suddenly reveals the social side.

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The Questions of Environmental Justice

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- Environmental justice and environmental racism is given considerable importance among planners.
- For instance if a municipal landfill is located near a society of low cost housing (minority group members) it clearly is a matter of racial discrimination.
- The environmental injustice cannot take place in a developing society and steps are to be taken to avoid this.

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Feminism and Planning

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- The feminism was also a matter of discussion in the social planning.
- In 1960s, the women power complained that they were left isolated with children in the suburbs and raised questions over the planning issues.
- They suggested planning was done only for the males and female interests were ignored.

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Planning and Aging

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- The number of retirees in the U.S. will rise greatly in the coming decades.
- The political power will increase for the old aged people.
- The biggest effect would be on planning practices of land use and housing.

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Planning and Aging conti...

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- The social issues discussed in this chapter are the one's which are covered in the entire book.
- In following chapters we see the topics in connection with growth control, environmental planning, and economic development planning.
- The planners can focus on the less fortunate but generally the case is that planning is done on a generalized pattern.

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Who Does Social Planning

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- The planning which has direct connection to a social work is regarded as an activity done by a social planner.
- Examples would be an adult literacy program, or collecting funds for day care.
- Any decision involving works like deciding how sizable blocks of lands or sizable sums of public money will be spent has social connections.
- Thus this chapter discusses all the '*Social Issues in Planning*'.

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**Thank You**

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