



Abstracts

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Social Capital: Meaning, Measuring and Implications for Urban Planning

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The article examines the concept of social capital and its relevance to the field of urban planning. Social capital consists of links between persons in contexts of family, community, and society, links which permit individuals and groups to further their aims. Based on a comprehensive review of the scientific and professional literature, the article presents the various definitions that have been developed and formulated for the term, discusses different types of social capital and ways to encourage its formation. Evidence is provided of its various effects, including effects on economic growth and efficiency, on civic society and democratic action, on social solidarity and on levels of health, education, and crime in society.

Relying on empirical research, social capital is presented as a variable that city planners can utilize for a variety of purposes: for neighborhood characterization, as a basis for promoting plans for urban development and regeneration, as a vital asset in coping with poverty, and as an aid to maintaining neighborhood stability over time. By means of city design, by social mix in residential areas, and by promoting public participation in decision making, urban planners can contribute to strengthening social capital for the benefit of individuals and social groups as well as for realizing planning goals.

Keywords: Social Capital, Bonding Social Capital, Bridging Social Capital, Urban Planning

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