

URBAN HOUSING REHABILITATION  
A Joint Strategy for Housing Urban Poor

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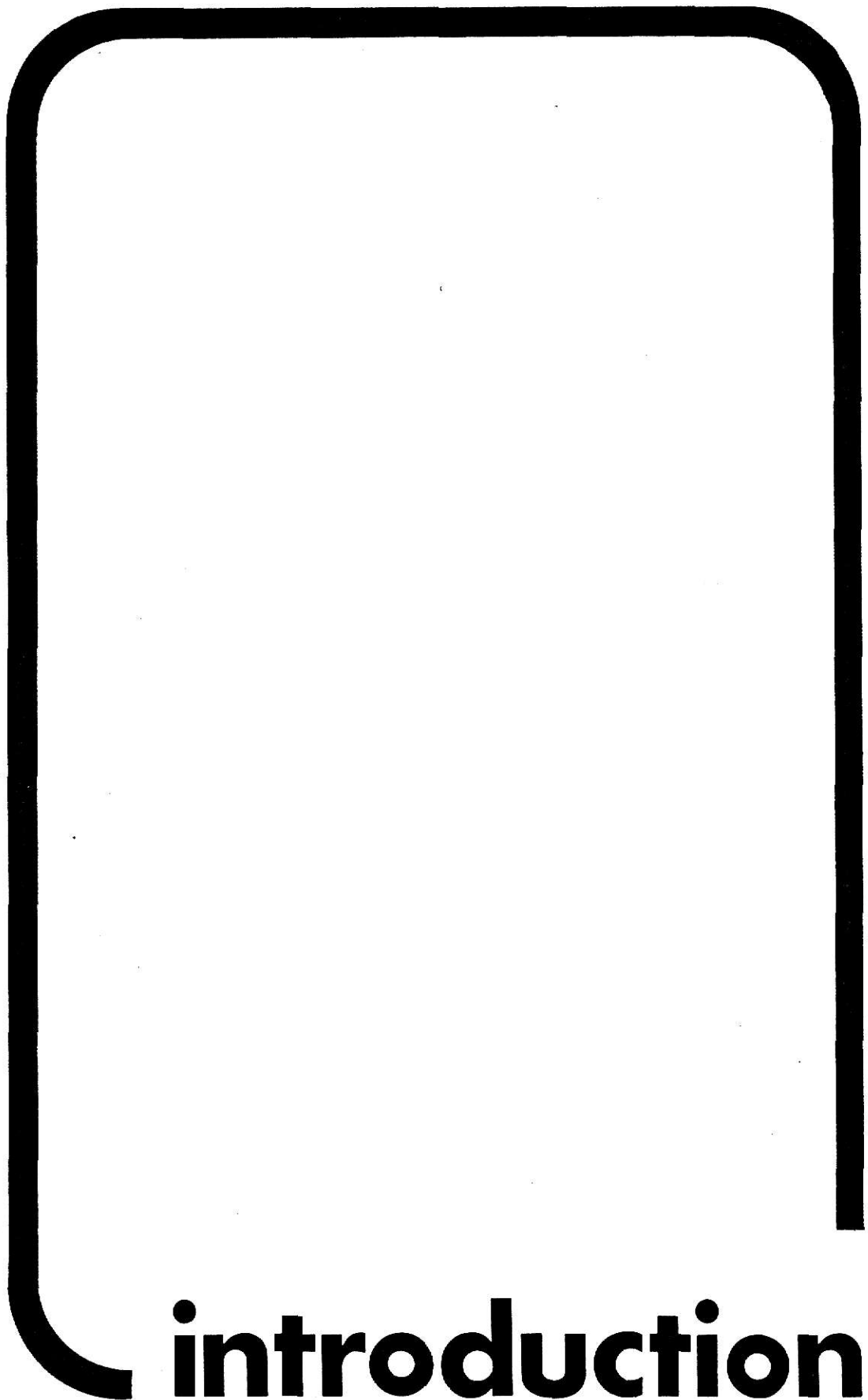
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# **introduction**

## URBANIZATION

Urbanization is one of the major concerns of the twentieth century. The issues regarding the increasing influx of the population to the existing urban cores as well as the formation of new urban environments have gained the attention of many disciplines in our modern societies.

Cities are constantly expanding, leading to the formation of metropolises which are well beyond human control and comprehension. The number of such metropolises is constantly increasing.<sup>1</sup>

Urban areas have provided a magnet for attracting people from rural areas. The primary incentive for such an exodus from rural areas to urban environments is economic in nature. People come to urban areas with the hope of providing themselves and their families with better job opportunities and of improving their living conditions by maximizing their benefits.

It is also one of the underlying characteristics of human beings to form social gatherings to increase their chances for human contact. We learn from each other, we enjoy each other's company and, most importantly, we can provide better living conditions and extend the domain of our possibilities by pooling our intelligence and diverse capabilities.

Socialization has economic ramifications which, in itself, encourages people to take part in social gatherings. Urban environments provide ample opportunities for human social interaction. Throughout history, urban centers have served as environments for economic exchanges and social gatherings. Farmers and other producers brought their goods to urban centers for the purpose of exchange.