

"Child in the City"

This study proposes to examine the impact of rapid changes in contemporary urban living conditions on the well-being of children. The focus is on social and environmental trends and their real and potential consequences for children. Changes in family structure, housing, population and in feelings of social responsibility are the dominant trends to be analyzed. These changes have varying impacts on the attitudes, behaviour, life styles and general social health of our future generations. Some of the consequences are obvious (increasing violence), others are more subtle (changing values).

Five specific areas for research are suggested:

- 1) attitudes to, and changes in the distribution of authority
- 2) the increasing diversity in population structure and thus in value standards
- 3) changes in housing and neighbourhood environments
- 4) changes in the context of childraising, and
- 5) changes in the access of children to different social activities.

Specific emphasis is given in each area to anticipating those emerging factors which will affect children, directly and indirectly, and which will increasingly shape the social and institutional context in which medical and welfare services operate. Since such issues, when identified, demand a response, the programme proposes to parallel the empirical research with demonstration projects. These projects are designed to stimulate public awareness, to disseminate research information, and when appropriate to encourage policy action.

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