The dissertation consists of six sections.

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It begins with an introduction to the subject. The objective is to examine the various problems connected with squatter clearance and relocation, and at the same time, looking into ways and means to overcome these problems.

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In section one, the term slum dweller is distinguished from squatter and the types of squatter are enumerated. In Singapore the following types are identified: residential squatters, shops and industries, bona-fide farmers and part-time farmers.

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Population growth is discussed in detail in section two. Singapore has grown from a fishing village of 150 Malays in 1819 into one of the most important ports in the world today with a population of over two millions. Immigrants contributed the major component in population increase before the introduction of immigration controls in 1930, after which natural increase played the main part. In Singapore rural-urban migration is negligible and the squatter problem is caused by international migration from China, India, Malaysia and Indonesia. The Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) was established in 1927, but it did little to relieve the housing problem. In 1968, there were 55,400 households or 363,300 persons (i.e. 18.5% of the total
population) living in attap and temporary dwellings in the city fringe.

Section three deleted.

Section four attempts a closer look at the socio-economic characteristics of the squatters - their living conditions in terms of degree of overcrowding and availability of facilities; the houseownership and subtenancy pattern; their educational achievement and occupational status; their income levels comparing with rentals in public housing; and benefits from conditions of squatter living. The attitudes of the squatters towards relocation are also discussed.

The Resettlement Policy in Singapore 1956 and its 1964 and 1971 Revisions are discussed in section five. Compensations and allowances to the residential squatters, farmers, shops and industries are listed in turn and their effectiveness and implications were evaluated. The problems of the urban squatters are identified and enumerated in section six. Proposals to overcome them call for both long and short term programmes. The following strategies are suggested:

1. getting the evicted into public housing which aims at solving the problem of rent by means of rental rebate, subsidy and homeownership incentive schemes.

2. keeping them in public housing which aims
at increasing the income and hence narrowing the gap between incomes and shelter costs.