

## **Urban square dance in Haidian District of Beijing: Issues and suggestions**

### **ABSTRACT**

With the remarkable success of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, the country vigorously advocated the people to actively participate in fitness and exercising nationwide. People responded to the call of government by actively participating in Square Dances, pushing the development of square dance to a climax. Following the development of recent years, such mass culture has prospered among public. There are a lot of parks in Haidian District, Beijing, with a total of 24 parks located around the city center and countryside. The 8 parks mentioned in this paper have high green coverage rate, wide open spaces, and suitable environment for the public to conduct fitness activities. Since these parks are located near residential areas, citizens make them as their first choice to develop leisure and entertainment activities. It is not a rare to have square dance teams occupying the open spaces in the parks. These square dance teams have been established for 2 to 20 years, spontaneously made up by public with different genders, ages and professional background. This paper focuses on the development of square dances in the parks of Haidian District, Beijing and collects its first-hand data through field survey method, thus showing a more comprehensive grasp to the development of square dances in Haidian District. During the organization of such square dance activities, site disputations were occurred as the park was relatively small for the large participating crowd. The level of the square dance teams was uneven, because of lacking professional instructors. Aiming to create an organized and sustainable square dance environment in Haidian District, it is suggested that national and governmental systems and policies should make full use of the social resources available to improve outdoor fitness sites, increase professional square dance instructors and support volunteers, to create a harmonious environment for the society.