

## **We Look Forward to the Future in the Difficult Days**

**N**O matter from which point of view, 2020 is an unimaginable year. The sudden outbreak and rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic have caused the world to face unprecedented challenges. Schools were closed, and how to make the education system work effectively in this context has become a common topic among educators around the world.

Best Evidence in Chinese Education (BECE) realized the importance of this topic early on. As the country that first encountered the virus and was the fastest to control its impact, China has gained valuable experience in the process of education and anti-epidemic. Although the real situations are different in different countries, we believe that using academics to reach consensus and form a joint force must be our inevitable survival choice in the pandemic. Based on this understanding, the editorial office quickly organized topics on education to fight against the pandemic. We have not only invited Chinese scholars to discuss this issue, but at the same time, considering that this is a global public health crisis, people urgently need to learn from their own experience and strength. So we also organized scholars outside of China to discuss their own country's experience. This topic quickly attracted the attention of all parts. The download and reprint of related papers have risen rapidly from the statistics results, and some readers have given us feedback and praised us for doing a significant thing. We are gratified that we can contribute our modest strength to the global fight against the pandemic.

Besides, we continue to focus on promoting high-quality education empirical research results from China. Throughout 2020, through professional evaluation and screening, we published 15 original papers, reprinted the full text of 10 high-quality papers published in Chinese academic journals, and published 32 carefully compiled newsletters. These papers and newsletters cover a wide range of topics from pre-school education to higher education, involving dozens of authoritative Chinese education research journals. The authors include front-line teachers, education administrators, and scholars. Through our efforts, we hope that we can portray the current empirical research on education in China and promote academic exchanges and development for colleagues worldwide who are concerned about empirical research on Chinese education. In this process, we have received strong support from the journal staff, editors, and reviewers, and our readers continued to encourage and look forward to us. On behalf of the editorial office colleagues, I would like to express my sincere thanks to you for your guidance and help!

In 2021, we will continue to adhere to our original aspiration and promote empirical research on high-quality education in China as our mission and goal. 2021 is a critical time node for the initiation and deepening of China's education reform. We will focus on significant and vital issues in China, focusing on China's education poverty alleviation, education evaluation reform, education modernization progress, and front-line teaching reform as selected topics, and strive to contribute valuable empirical research on Chinese education to education colleagues around the world.

Just as whether or not the groundhog Phil can see his shadow, spring will definitely come. Although we still face challenges and difficulties at the beginning of the New Year, we are full of expectations for the future. We believe that difficult days will always pass, and we hope everything will return to normal as soon as possible and wish all people safety and health!

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