



# SCOPE OF FRENCH LANGUAGE IN MODERN INDIAN CONTEXT An Essay

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## **Introduction :**

" J'aime beaucoup la langue française " - I like the FRENCH language a lot. This is the phrase that most of the learners say when they start understanding the French language. French as we all know is one of the most spoken languages in the world. It is not only spoken in France but there are many francophonie countries where French is spoken as an official or as a second language. But INDIA is neither a francophonie country nor French is spoken as a second language here. Then why Indian students and young professional have so much interest in this language.

## **Description :**

Since last few years, learning a foreign language has become a vague among young Indian learners. This trend has emerged almost two decades back when various multinational companies got the opportunity to set up their offices in India. They started hiring young generation to their offices as it was considered that due to huge population and higher rate of unemployment, labor was quite cheaper in India and in the Indian sub continent. This multinational culture on one side giving employment to young adults and on the other hand giving them perks and introducing to them a new work culture- the corporate culture. In addition, these companies started giving chance to their employees to work on various out-station projects. Following this a lot of people got opportunities to visit abroad for professional purpose. And during that time, understanding of a foreign language came up as a boon for those who had the knowledge of the same as they were appointed on the particular project related to that language. Amex, Fujitsu, Google are some of the grand multinational enterprises that were hiring not just professionally qualified aspirants but also the people who knew any foreign language.

This boom encouraged young people to take up foreign languages and broaden their professional horizon. With the emergence of the concept of Globalization and Internet, languages become easier to learn as one can learn from anywhere. Moreover, the arrival of COVID made online learning a blessing. This also helps learners to acquire the knowledge of any foreign language easily. And people took the advantage and upgraded their skills with language learning.

As far as Indian education system is concerned, there exist two types of schools. First are the Government Schools (schools run by the state or the central govt) and the Second category is of Private Schools (schools run by private owners) It is considered that private schools are much better than the govt schools. Because the education provided by the private schools are of higher standard and compatible with modern times but considered expensive. On the other hand, govt schools provide cheaper or free of cost education to all. That's why only in a few govt schools, foreign languages are introduced by the govt. In the case of private schools, most of them have introduced some foreign languages for their learners many years ago and FRENCH is one of them. Spanish and German are also equally important. Nowadays, Mandarin and Japanese languages are gaining popularity. But the FRENCH language has its own charm that no other language could change. That's why most of the students still opted for it when they get an option to study any non Indian language.

Now the question that comes up here is - Why young Indian learners give more priority to the FRENCH language than any other of its counterparts? First of all, French is spoken in many countries that help students to try their luck in more countries. There are many countries in Europe and in the world where French is considered as a second or official language. Same is the case with some African countries where due to colonization, French has become their official language. Gabon is one of them although it is the only African country that has never been actually colonized. Its capital is named " Libreville" that is a French word that means FreeCity. So, if a language is spoken in more countries than its speakers can have more opportunities to use it.

Second factor is, a lot of French companies had set up their production and offices in India that has given opportunities to young professionals to join them . This factor on one side helped in reducing the unemployment percentage and on the other hand started giving professionals the chance to grow more in their field if they were having the knowledge of French.

Moreover, many parents wanted to send their kids abroad to get higher studies. Among other countries like the USA and England etc. France has also been a popular academic destination for students. This also boosts the learning of French language and not only France, Some parts of Canada also offers French as their spoken language. This makes French as a language that can be used worldwide as English. In the continuation, With the evolution of the concept of Globalization ( mondialisation ) in French, Not just education sector but the travel and tourism sector also took a leap. As France has been a one of the most visited countries, tourists consider the knowledge of its language as a most convenient way to understand their art and culture. There are no words to express the charm of French literature. The work of Victor Hugo, Jules Verne and other French writers are the boons to the world of literature. Every book lover in the world must have read atleast one of the French novels in his life.

Apart from these reasons, India's economic and cultural relations with France has also been boosted . In the field of defence , India is investing huge amount in France . This leads to encourage the cultural exchange between the two countries as well. And language plays a vital role in understanding each others cultures well. That's why French is being learned by so many in India. But is the same status with Hindi as Hindi is the most spoken language in India. Although there are many regional languages as well in India.

Nevertheless , Indian people are more inclined towards learning French rather than French people learning Hindi. May be because France offers much more better life style, medical facilities and education to people than India. Its true that India is being emerging fast as a strong economy but

due to high population rate all the people unable to get all the resources. On the other hand, France is a developed nation and offers variety of facilities to its people. That is why many people from India want to settle down in France. And not only France, settling down in the USA, Australia, NZ and Canada are also quite popular in India.

### **Conclusion :**

The French language has been emerging very fast in India. Its learning has become quite popular and it is considered that its knowledge gives a boost to one's professional life. For me, being a language enthusiast and having knowledge of French and Italian language , learning of a language has always been a fun and a way to explore new culture , litterature , new people and indeed new way of understanding things.

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