Australian Hindi Committee

ऑस्ट्रेलियन हिंदी समिति

Teaching Hindi Language in NSW Schools

Dear NSW residents of Indian and Fijian descent!

Do you know that Hindi language teaching is quite far behind in NSW as compared to most other community languages? As per 2015 statistics, there are about 6558 students in NSW public schools from Hindi speaking background but Hindi is taught only in four public schools in NSW? As you will note from the following Table, there are only 3349 students from Italian background and yet Italian is taught in 28 public schools.

Language	Students with this language background in Public Schools	Number of schools teaching the language
Chinese	21072	52
Arabic	20614	53
Vietnamese	8044	36
Hindi[#]	6558	4 (was 1 in2014)*
Greek	5789	17
Korean	4525	10
Italian	3349	28

This does not include students with other Indian language background.
* Hindi was taught only in one school until 2014. Thanks to the efforts of the Australia Hindi Committee members and many others parents/volunteers that it is now being taught in four schools.

Consider other Indian Languages

If we consider statistics of other Indian language speakers in public school and assume that most, if not all, speak and understand Hindi we are at the top of the table. See the table below

Students with other Indian Language background		Schools
Tamil	2698	2
Urdu	2944	2
Bengali	2575	4
Punjabi	2463	1
Gujarati	1935	
Malyalam	1151	
Telugu	1235	
Marathi	686	
Subtotal of Other Indian Languages	15687	
Hindi	6558	4
Nepali	1354	2
Total for all Indian Languages	23599	13

(The source of this statistics can be provided to those interested.)

* Statistics for students less than 1000 (in Public and high school together) are not mentioned separately. For example Kannada, Odia, Assamese, Konkani, Sindhi, Maithili and many other language speakers are not counted here.

And number of schools teaching Chinese, Arabic and Vietnamese is far greater than number of schools teaching Hindi, even after taking into account all Indian Languages.

Hindi in Australia, India and in the world

Australia: Number of people who speak Hindi in Australia is 111,349 and is ranked 9th (http://profile.id.com.au/australia/language). Number of Mandarin speakers, ranked 1st, is 336,178. Again if we add all Indian languages speakers, the total number who can speak and understand Hindi would be approximately 364,525 and would be at the top of the table.

India: Bilingual and trilingual education is very common in most states. According to 2001 census 255 million are bilingual and 87.5 million speak three or more languages. Almost 551 million speak Hindi which is far greater than those who speak English in India.

World: Hindi is ranked the 2nd after Mandarin (873M) in the world (http://www.vistawide.com/languages/top_30_languages.htm).

Indian economy and Hindi

By 2030 India is likely to become 3rd largest economy of the world. Free trade agreement with Australia is also expected to be signed in near future. Make in India program will increase business interest and, therefore, the interest in learning the main language of India i.e. Hindi will also grow rapidly.

Non-Indians are also keen to learn Hindi; As Indian economy is growing rapidly, people from non-Indian background are increasingly showing interest in learning Hindi language.

Why should we learn our mother tongue?

Without language we risk of losing our culture and cultural Identity. Language will help our future generations to relate to our motherland and connect to our roots. Language will help appreciate our rich cultural heritage.

Benefit of learning second language

It is a myth that learning 2nd language can confuse children and affect their speech or learning capability. In fact, the benefits of learning second language at early stage are:
- proven higher level of cognitive development, divergent thinking, creative thinking, higher academic achievement
- better career progression as all global organisations want candidates with higher bilingual skills in their native language,
- Children to retain the cultural wisdom and family values and improve social and relationship skills.

Our Goal

There are at least 20 schools where there is a significant number of children from Hindi and/or Indian language background. We must try to get Hindi Teaching started in these schools as soon as possible. Schools can offer multiple community languages, including multiple Indian languages.

We really to need to focus on getting Hindi teaching started in schools in Western Sydney (*Westmead , Wentworthville , Rosehill, Parramatta, Quakers Hill, Quakers Hill East Blacktown, Matthew Pearce, Caddies Creek, John Palmer, Kellyville Ridge, Parklea*) and South Western Sydney (*Dalmeny, Greenway, Hoxton Park and, Casula.*)

How you and your child can benefit

We need volunteer parents who can help themselves and their children learn your own language in school hours. If your school has enough population of Hindi or Indian language speakers you need to meet school principal and also P & C (Parents and Citizen Committee) and make a request, in writing, to start Hindi Teaching in the school.

Petition: To help gather support of other parents in the school and demonstrate to the school that Indian community want their children to study their own language we have prepared a sample petition. Please call or email us and we can provide the sample to you. We need to work together to achieve this goal. We can prepare electronic petition too. We as a community must present a united front to convince the school that there is grass root level demand for learning Hindi.

Criteria to start community language: According to Community Languages Program K-6 Guidelines the primary criteria for implementing a Community Languages program at a primary school are:
* that the community language is spoken by the local school community;
* that there is demonstrated staff support for the program;
* that there is demonstrated parental and community support for the program;
* That adequate accommodation in the form of a classroom is available.

The first and third bullet points clearly indicate that to start a community language in the school the language must be spoken by sufficient number of students in the school and community must demonstrate that they want to study the language.

Procedure to start a community Language in school: School principal needs to apply to the department of education if school wishes to start teaching a new language from 2017. The last date to submit this application is **27 May 2016**. Responsibility is on the Indian school community to raise their voice. Australia Hindi Committee and other leaders are there to help and guide.

After hour classes: Other option is to exploring teaching Hindi after school hours. For this we can take help of some established schools like IABBV-HIndiSchool.com etc.

How to become Hindi Teacher

Thinking ahead, to get Hindi teaching started in schools, department would need Hindi teachers. We urge teachers of Hindi language background to qualify themselves as a community language teacher. They can do so by appearing for Community Language Teachers Test which is held at the University of NSW Institute of Languages (UNSWIL). After that they must contact department by email Additional.Approval@det.nsw.edu.au.

Overseas Teachers: Qualified teachers from overseas and interested in teaching in Australia may have to get their qualifications accredited by the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) and then be approved by the NSW Department of Education. They may also have to appear for Professional English Assessment for Teachers (PEAT) Test to demonstrate that their English language proficiency is of a standard.

Contact :

If you are willing to help please email us at aushindicom@gmail.com or call one of us;

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