

## 5. FOREIGN LANGUAGES, NEED OF THE ERA

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### **Abstract:**

In today's globalized world, learning a foreign language is not only an academic pursuit but also a vital skill for personal and professional growth. Charlemagne's quote, "To know two languages is to possess a second soul," highlights the profound impact that language acquisition has on an individual's life. As globalization continues to advance, the ability to speak foreign languages gives students an edge in international exams, scholarships, and career opportunities. Beyond professional advantages, learning a foreign language enhances cognitive and analytical abilities, contributing to improved personality and self-worth. Educational institutions, particularly in places like Dehradun, are recognizing the importance of foreign language education as a means to prepare students for a competitive and interconnected world. Ultimately, proficiency in foreign languages fosters not only better career prospects but also a deeper understanding of diverse cultures and global perspectives.

**Keywords:** Globalization, Foreign languages, Cognitive development, Career opportunities, Educational systems

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### **"To know two languages is to possess a second soul" - Charlemagne**

It was Charlemagne who said "To know two languages is to possess a second soul". And really in this era of globalization a foreign language, apart from your mother tongue is compulsory.

Learning foreign languages like French, Spanish, Italian, Mandarin gives students an edge. There has always been a growing importance for languages whether native or foreign, but it is more true now as the world has become a smaller place. As globalization is getting more and more aggressive, an increasing number of youngsters are inclined towards learning foreign languages.

It gives students an opportunity to appear for international examinations like IELTS, TOFEL, JLPT and DELF. For the school level kids there are so many exams in French like, FRENCH SPELL BEE, IFLO, FRENCH OLYMPIAD conducted by French Embassy by cracking which students can even win a free trip to FRANCE. These exams help students to get a scholarship to study abroad. The acquisition of foreign languages enables young people to find work in foreign companies. Besides, there is a plethora of career options in the fields of translation and tourism.

Another reason why we should learn a foreign language is that the knowledge of a foreign language enhances our cognitive and analytical abilities. Learning a foreign language is tough and involves a lot of mental exercise. On the individual level, it improves personality and increases your sense of self-worth. The need of language faculties has increased due to the -

growing interest in students to learn foreign languages. People associated with social services need to work with diverse groups from several countries. Ability to speak in a foreign language enables them to communicate and serve people better. Today, various institutes, schools, colleges, and universities are offering a number of courses in foreign languages. Among them, German, French, Spanish, Japanese, and Mandarin are now gaining great momentum. As far as the boarding schools in Dehradun are concerned, they are now gradually shifting their focus towards foreign language education, realizing that proficiency in international languages opens doors to global career opportunities. The schools, teachers, and parents in Dehradun now understand that education is not confined to traditional academic excellence alone – it must include skills that provide international exposure and employability. If we truly seek the intellectual and holistic growth of our students, the acquisition of foreign languages has become essential.

Whether you learn a language for a specific reason or out of interest, learning a foreign language will lead to long-term success. It will open up new avenues before you. The more languages you know, the better you can express yourself. If education is a means to prepare students for the complicated world they inhabit, then the educational system cannot deprive students of a general education in the area of foreign language. The value of such an education not only lies in job preparation but also in developing an understanding of other people and cultures.