



# Community Languages Schools

## Ambassador Program Student Profile



### Ikshita Pandey

My name is Ikshita Pandey. I attended Indo-Aust Bharathi Vidyalaya Hindi School (IABBV) for three years.

At IABBV Hindi School, I had the privilege of learning alongside like-minded individuals, all driven to enhance their understanding of our shared community language.

Every year, I enthusiastically participated in Hindi Divas, a celebration where I showcased my musical talents by playing Indian songs on my flute and joining in group singing. I continue to volunteer at this event, which holds a special place in my heart. Our exceptional music teacher composed a song, *Diwali Aayee*, commemorating the Festival of Lights. This song, which was originally sung by myself and my friends is now performed by younger students at IABVV.



*“Learning and preserving our community language means embracing the diverse tapestry of thought that enriches our society.”*

As a representative of IABBV Hindi School, I have had the privilege of attending community engagement forums, where I discovered my passion for addressing the intersection of health and cultural issues. To nurture this interest, I have been actively involved in coordinating the Say No to Domestic Violence Walk as part of Women’s Shed.

Additionally, I have provided a young person’s perspective on domestic violence in Hindi, a message later broadcasted by SBS Hindi. As a current Science student at university, I’m thrilled to learn that credible research supports the notion that multilingualism can enhance academic performance, concentration, and memory.

In Western and increasingly in non-Western societies, knowing how to speak English well can be indicative of your social and academic prospects in life. While English is the most dominant language in the world, it is problematic when it becomes the only language anyone is willing to learn. I have learnt that language is not unearthed in a vacuum. When you are learning and practicing the language of your parents, or your home country, you are concurrently learning the culture, customs, traditions, and belief systems which that language gave rise to. Disregarding all the other languages we have can mean abandoning entire cultures and belief systems. Simply put, it would be quite boring if everyone spoke, acted, and thought the same way! Diversity of thought is what is always encouraged, and learning your community language is a very good way to develop versatility and open-mindedness in all spheres of life.