

Summary of findings



A	अ  Form 1: Recommended for most uses. Recognised by most across all regions and ages. Strongly preferred across regions studied.	अ  Form 2: Only recognised in the north (Nepal and surrounding Indian regions). Age nor language play a role in preference. Preferred only by specific readers in the north.	
VOCALIC R	ऋ  Form 1: Widely recognised across all regions. Preferred by some Nepali readers.	ठ  Form 2: Recognised only in the north. Preferred by some Nepali readers.	ड  Form 3: Widely recognised across all regions. Preferred alternative across India.
KHA	ख  Form 1: Solid recognition. Younger readers prefer this alternative. Additionally, readers from regions in the south (Below Maharashtra) show a preference.	ख  Form 2: Slight worse recognition in comparison to Form 1. Preferred by readers of the north (Nepal and surrounding Indian regions) and older participants (+50).	
CHA	छ  Form 1: Solid recognition. Younger readers prefer this alternative. Additionally, readers from regions in the south (Below Maharashtra) show a preference.	छ  Form 2: Slight worse recognition in comparison to Form 1. Preferred by readers of the north (Nepal and surrounding Indian regions) and older participants (+40).	
JHA	झ  Form 1: Recommended for most uses. Highly recognised by most across all regions and ages. Strongly preferred across India, but not Nepal.	झ  Form 2: Recognised mostly toward the north (Nepal and surrounding Indian regions). Solidly preferred by Nepali readers, hence this form is recommended for this population.	
NNA	ण  Form 1: Recommended for most uses. Recognised by most across all regions and ages. Strongly preferred across regions studied.	ण  Form 2: Only recognised in the north (Nepal and surrounding Indian regions). Age nor language play a role in preference. Preferred only by specific readers in the north.	
LA	ल  Form 1: Recommended for most uses. Highly recognised and preferred by a vast majority, specially Hindi speakers and younger Marathi speakers.	ल  Form 2: Recognised by most participants. Somewhat preferred by Marathi speakers, specially those who are older (+45).	
SHA	श  Form 1: Recommended for most uses. Highly recognised, strongly preferred by Hindi and also Marathi speakers. Nepali speakers also prefer this version.	श  Form 2: Use is discouraged for general use, low recognition across regions. Only preferred by older Marathi readers (+70).	
K-SSA	क्ष  Form 1: Recommended for most uses. Recognised by most across all regions and ages. Strongly preferred across regions studied.	क्ष  Form 2: Only recognised in the north (Nepal and surrounding Indian regions). Age nor language play a role in preference. Preferred only by specific readers in the north.	
1	१  Form 1: Strongly recognised. Slightly preferred across India. No effect of language or age was found on preference. Because of high recognition, recommended form for most uses.	१  Form 2: Recognised less than Form 1. Preferred in the north (Nepal and surrounding Indian regions). Preference is not linked with age. Recommended only for Nepali readers.	
4	४  Form 1: High recognition across regions. With the data analysed (n=387), location, age and language could not predict recognition or preference. Using either form can be a stylistic choice.	४  Form 2: High recognition across regions. With the data analysed (n=387), location, age and language could not predict recognition or preference. Using either form can be a stylistic choice.	
5	५  Form 1: Recognition evenly distributed. Preferred by individuals who learnt in Maharashtra and those who speak Marathi. Age does not play a role in preference.	५  Form 2: Recognition evenly distributed. Preferred by individuals from Nepal and surrounding Indian regions. Age does not play a role in preference.	
8	८  Form 1: Recognition evenly distributed. Preferred by individuals who learnt in Maharashtra and those who speak Marathi. Age does not play a role in preference.	८  Form 2: Recognition evenly distributed. Preferred by individuals from Nepal and surrounding Indian regions. Age does not play a role in preference.	
9	९  Form 1: Recommended alternative for most uses. Strongly recognised and preferred in all regions and across ages.	९  Form 2: Discouraged form. Only recommended for older readers from the north of India.	९  Form 3: Discouraged form overall. Not well recognised and preferred by almost no individuals.