'NAZIR AKBARABADI : VYAKTITWA AUR KRITITWA'
(The Personality and Achievement of Nazir Akbarabadi) is a retrospective study of Nazir Akbarabadi's personality and performance in relation to the present human behaviour in perspective of the following major dimensions of study based upon which a hypothesis was set resulting into the following directives for a descriptive and analytical research design:

- Life of Nazir Akbarabadi;
- His Views about the Contemporary Society;
- His Philosophy of Life;
- His Influence over the Literature of the Present Days;

Nazir Akbarabadi, who was the symbol of coordination between the medieval and the modern cultural consciousness, has remained neglected by the scholars and critics although he was a powerful and important writer of the age.

Miyaan Nazir lived for about hundred years. In
spite of his so lengthy a life, he was never recognised as a poet till his death. Nazir Akbarabadi became rather a hero of a myth during his life time. His poetic genius has been recognised after his death. But long before his recognition, his poetry reached the nook and corner as songs. His poems were sung like folksongs in different places by different people. His popularity compelled the critics and scholars to change the method of evaluation of poetry. Considering the popularity among the common people, the critics had no alternative than to recognise him as a poet of both Hindi and Urdu literature.

Nazir may be regarded as the representative of his age. He was such a poet who could give solutions to the challenges of the age and who stood on his own feet. Most of the accepted values of ancient life and old poetic styles of the 'Shaayars' (poets writing Shers) were challenged by the new generation of his time. Nazir showed a new way of poetry, where in ordinary and common men might tread in and arrived in their resting place.

In my childhood, Nazir Akbarabadi's 'Banjaaraanaamaa' attracted me most for its following piece of verse:

"जब चलते-चलते रस्ते में, यह गौं मेरी रह जावेगी।
एक बातिया तेरी मिटटी पर फिर धान न चरने आवेगी।"
Miyaan Nazir was a great poet, who was delighted with the delightful world. His poetry seems to laughs and dances along with all celebrity of life. The life of his time with all its colour, pomp and glory was reflected in his poetry with all its gaiety and natural colour. In it all the differences of caste, creed religion etc. were mitigated. He was the only such a poet who was acclaimed by all—Urdu and Hindi speaking people, the cultivators, the labourers, the high and middle class people, young and old, men and women all. For him, there was no difference between the Hindus and the Muslims, Urdu and Hindee but it was a fact that our society was one with all human being. His ideas are spread in almost all his fifty thousand lines of poetry. In his world of vast poetry there is life united and infallible.

Nazir's ideals, his art, his poetry etc. are universal and would not fade up at any time, and are like a piece of the 'Akhand Raasleelaa' wherein all the colours, pomp and gay of life are reflected. Such a fascinating and everlasting 'Shaayaree' is hardly found in the world literature. His genius and uncommon speciality made him an unavoidable part of our collective life. Of course, Nazir was never a Shakespeare,
and yet he was such a poet, who in the words of Shakespeare, "showed a mirror to Nature".

As stated above, Nazir jee, although at the beginning a neglected personally, became a renowned poet when the succeeding generation realised his poetic genius. His writings give us a vivid picture of his time. He has been rather recognised as the soul of India.

"सच पूछा जाए तो आलोचकों ने इन्हें भारतीय आत्मा के रूप में प्रतिष्ठित किया है क्योंकि उनका काव्य भारतीयता से ऊत-प्रोत है।"

In the words of Dr. Daamodar Das Vashisht:

"नज़ीर ने समसामयिक भारतीय समाज को तथा उसकी संस्कृति को बहुत अधिक क़रीब से देखा था।"

It is rather a peculiarity of Indian culture that greatest importance is laid on the personality of a man who tried to make unity in diversity. India belongs to all and not to any particular class. We defend her in the similar way. Poet Akbarabadi depicted this idealism in a great extent. It is another reason so as to why his poetry should be read and investigated. The works of Nazir jee has attracted the attention of the scholars and we shall endeavour to establish the truth through this research project.

It is also to be noted that poet Nazir jee used two styles in his works which are very much important in present
times for national and literary unity.

Nazir jee had his own style and art. Dryden, one of the great poets of England, remarked about Chaucer, the first poet of English literature, that in him one can find the variety of nature or the gift of the Lord. It is also true of the poetry of Nazir Akbarabadi. We can easily accept the remark of Dr. D. Das Vashishth:

"‘नजीर शेकशाहीयर तो नहीं हैं लेकिन उसी बिरादरी के शायर हैं। दोनों ने प्रकृति को आईना दिखाया है।’"

One renowned European critic, Dr. Felon had a deep study of Urdu literature, remarked:

"‘नजीर ही एक ऐसे शायर हैं, जो अंग्रेजी की कसौटी पर सच्चा उतरता है। उसकी शायरी ने जन-साधारण के दिलों में अपनी जगह की है। उसकी कविताएँ सड़कों, खेतों और गलियों में गायी जाती है। वह एक आज़ाद आदमी था। वो कुछ चाहता ही नहीं था। सौभाग्य-दुःखित उसके लिए बराबर थे। जैसा उसने खुद कहा है कि वह अपनी खाल में मस्त था। वह आले दरजे का साहित्यिक, चित्रकार तथा आविष्कारी, विचारक और जगत का दोस्त था। इन्सानियत से उसकी गहरी दोस्ती थी। वह हर चीज में खूबी पाता था।’"

He meant to say that the Shaayaree of Nazir had won the hearts of the people. His poems are sung in the streets and lanes and in other common places like cultivation fields etc. For him, fame and disaster had no distinction. He
was an artist. He had friendship of humanity.

"अच्छे भी आदमी ही कहाले हैं ऐ नज़ीर।
और सबसे बुरा है जो, हे सो भी आदमी।"

Aachaarya Raamchandra Shukla made reference to Nazir Akbarabadi as a poet of 'Khadee Bolee' in his 'Hindee Saahitya Kaa Itihaas'. He means to say that he (Nazir) wrote the lines on the Krishna Leelaa in Khadee Bolee. Generally, it is not proper to compare one poet with another and it is also difficult to find out the status of a poet in the world of poetry.

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Signature of the Candidate:

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(SAIRA JAMALI)