

Impact Factor: 8.67

ISSN:0976-8165

*The Criterion*

# THE CRITERION

AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL IN ENGLISH

Bi-Monthly Peer-Reviewed eJournal

**15** YEARS OF OPEN ACCESS

VOL. 15 ISSUE-6 DECEMBER 2024

Editor-In-Chief: **Dr. Vishwanath Bite**  
Managing Editor: **Dr. Madhuri Bite**

[www.the-criterion.com](http://www.the-criterion.com)

AboutUs: <http://www.the-criterion.com/about/>

Archive: <http://www.the-criterion.com/archive/>

ContactUs: <http://www.the-criterion.com/contact/>

EditorialBoard: <http://www.the-criterion.com/editorial-board/>

Submission: <http://www.the-criterion.com/submission/>

FAQ: <http://www.the-criterion.com/fa/>



ISSN 2278-9529

**Galaxy: International Multidisciplinary Research Journal**  
[www.galaxyimrj.com](http://www.galaxyimrj.com)

## **Crossing the Twenty-Five**

**Dr. Ayyaj M. Shekh**

Assistant Professor of English,  
Shri V N Arts and Shri A N Commerce College, Mangrulpir,  
District Washim, Maharashtra, India.

Crossing the twenty five, a daunting stride,  
In pursuit of dreams, I must abide.  
With knowledge vast and intellect wide,  
Yet barriers loom, dream denied.

Government's policies, a tangled mess,  
Corruption and casteism cause distress.  
Despite degrees and efforts relentless,  
Job opportunities remain elusive, I confess.

A love unspoken, a heart confined,  
Family's burdens, duties bind.  
A the eldest son, I must stand tall,  
Yet my heart yearns to answer love's call.

Amidst trials and tribulations, I remain steadfast,  
Believing in myself, despite the contrast.  
Praying to Allah, to guide me at last,  
Crossing the twenty five, my journey vast.