

Folklore Resources and Research Centre St.Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai.

- There is something unique about this centre in that it goes beyond the pursuit of one specific objective of helping the scholar to acquire information on a topic restricted in scope and vision.
- Whatever the chosen field of Research, the centre makes it a multifaceted approach, a multi-dimensional scrutiny, which facilitates a centripetal input, diverse elements converging on a focal truth.
- Not only do we regard 'Folklore Research' as a multi-faceted diamond, we recognize the legitimacy of every variant in regard to the approach to it.
- As cultural traditions handed down from generation to generation, throw up an endless variety of conjectures, a meticulous study of the origin and the growth of tradition and cultural values is the first of our priorities at the centre.
- The FRRC works to provide a platform for those whose culture is primarily oral so that they might find their rightful place in the cultural map of India.
- The exercise aims at retrieving and reclaiming the indigenous knowledge systems embodied in folk culture and folkloristics. FRRC provides space, learning resources and infrastructural support to folklorists and other scholars of related disciplines of India and to the Folk artistes of Tamil Nadu

Major Wings of FRRC

- RESEARCH
 - Workshops & Seminars
 - Fieldwork
- DOCUMENTATION
 - Archives
 - Folk Museum
 - Library
- PUBLICATIONS
- FOLK ARTISTE SERVICE DESK

Research

FRRC organised an international workshop on Folkloristics in three phases in the year 1990. The first phase held from 18th June to 7th July 1990 at Kodaikanal gave importance to the introduction of various concepts in practice and theories related to the study of Folklore and the evaluation of the history of this discipline. The second phase held at St.Xavier's (Autonomous) College, Palayamkottai, from 12th to 28th August 1990 laid emphasis on 'Field Work Methodology'.The third phase held at Thrissur, Kerala, from 4th to 22nd December 1990, was considered a unique one because 'Applied Folklore' was taken for the first time as the focal theme of the workshop. Since then FRRC has conducted about 15 workshops on various topics related to folklore.

A panel discussion on 'Oral History', a seminar on 'Tamil Research and New Methodology', a National Seminar on 'Communication and Media Policy' have been conducted by FRRC since 1998. More than ten one-day / evening seminars on various issues related to 'Folklore and Folklife' and 'Tamil Literature' have been conducted.

Apart from these FRRC has been conducting a Certificate course in Folkloristics for students of other Colleges, Universities and for anyone who is interested in folklore. In the past six years more than 700 students have participated in this programme conducted in five different centres in the southern districts of Tamilnadu.

FRRC Archives



The FRRC archives has a sizable body of folkloristic materials in the form of audio and video cassettes, photographs, slides, manuscripts and palm leaf manuscripts. Archival holdings are organised, computerised and preserved in formats accessible to interested persons.

Besides building up a library of audio / video tapes, featuring almost all known variants of Folk arts in this part of the country, FRRC has a collection of Folk tales, most of those handed down orally from generation to generation, Folk ballads, songs and utterances peculiar to an area or a tribe and recordings of conversations with the elder member of a place, of whatever they might remember of what their grandparents had told them.



Besides tapes and other recordings made with the help of scientific gadgets, FRRC has obtained and preserved ancient documents and records, palmleaf manuscripts and antiques, making the Archives and its materials unique in their range and utility. More than 100 bundles of Palmleaf manuscripts have been processed, catalogued and preserved in our archives. FRRC develops projects and activities which bring to light the folk wisdom of the people of Tamilnadu. It collects and documents data regarding folklore. So far the centre has completed the following

research projects: Documenting the South Indian Folktales, Catholicism of Mukkuvar Community, Tribal Folklore among Irula Tribes, Seven Sisters' Cult, Ethnography of Kaniyan Koothu, Tale Type Index of Tamil Folktales, Vinayagar Chaturthi in Tamilnadu and



A Cultural Perspective of Fishermen Development. Some of the ongoing research projects are ‘Conflict and changing folklore in southern districts of Tamilnadu’ and ‘Folk deities of Tamilnadu’, Paddy growing culture’, ‘Lifestyle of Kaatu Nayakar community’.

Collections

AUDIO	-
3,700 hrs.	
VIDEO	-
749 hrs.	
PHOTOGRAPHS	-
15,650 nos.	
SLIDES	-
1,008 nos.	
PALM LEAF MANUSCRIPTS	-
126 bundles.	



FRRC produced four **audio** productions,

1. Mannin metukkal
2. Vidiyal kaana
3. Verhalin Muzhakam
4. Urimai thedum oorkuruvihal

Documentary Films:

FRRC produced four documentaries in the following titles.



Folk Museum:

The Folk Museum of FRRC, has number of collection of traditional materials which reveals the cultural heritage of Tamilnadu. The 'Kal Chekku' (oil extractor), Kamalai (water management system), wooden pots, clay pots, kudhir (for preservation), ritual objects of ethnic people. Grinding stones are some special items among the exhibits. The materials used in the paddy growing culture, Fishing are also exhibited here. Apart from these items the folk musical instruments are also exhibited.

FRRC has a good collection of leather puppets which are used by artiste in the performance of Leather shadow puppetry in the southern parts of India.



FRRC Library



The Library at FRRC is a veritable treasure - trove of information research scholars might be in need of. There are more than 16,000 books on facets of Folk tradition and on Folk Research viewed from different angles of perception.

Collection of Books in the following discipline

Section No.	Subject
390	Reference
391	History
392	Folklore
393	Folkloristics
394	Sociology
395	Psychology
396	Philosophy
397	Anthropology
398	Religion
399	Christianity
400	Performance
401	Music
402	Communication
403	Linguistics
404	Structuralism and Semiotics

405	Field Methodology
406	Literature
408	Journal & Magazine
409	Dissertations
410	General (U.G.C. fund)
	Total

Journal collections:

1. Economic and Political Weekly
2. Communalism Combat
3. Tribal Studies (Exchange)
4. Manushi
5. Seminar
6. Dharma Deepika
7. Seagull Theatre Quarterly
8. Asian folklore (U.G.C.)
9. Journal of Folklore Research (U.G.C.)
10. Satya Nilayam (Exchange)
11. Observer
12. Loyola Journal of Social Science (Exchange)
13. Indian Folklore Research Journal

Publication of books

The findings of our research and papers presented in some of the seminars and workshops are also published in some of our books (in Tamil) and in 'South Indian Folklorist' (in English) which is a biannual and refereed journal. FRRC has brought out 11 issues of the journal and has published 40 books so far, four in English and others in Tamil. Among the books in Tamil one is a text book for folklore and another is a book of theories of folklore. There are also books on Linguistics, Phonetics, Religion and Family Folklore. Two books are of the kind disseminating early writings, such as, the works of

Ayothithasar and the letters of St. Francis Xavier. The book in English, titled 'Myth and Literature' is the doctoral dissertation of Dr. A. Dorairaj who incorporated theories of myth widely applied in Folkloristics for his interpretation of James Joyce's, 'A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man'.

Folk Artiste's Welfare Desk

- FRRC supports traditional folk artistes through a service desk. It facilitates the folk artistes to avail themselves of the benefit schemes announced by the government and other agencies.
- It also endeavors to develop attractive packages of folk art forms without violating their specific genius.
- 'Gramiyakkalai', a newsletter for the folk artistes, is a special feature of this 'Service Desk' which provides the folk artistes with a forum for expression.
- This quarterly newsletter, brought out by the FRRC, since 1998, is meant to serve the interests of folk artistes.

Kalaimaamani awardees

