The history of Tamil Nadu has got a long lasting tradition and reputation. Such a traditionally rich Tamil Nadu, has been offering immense information for the betterment of mankind, through folk songs. Trade songs assume a uniqueness among the folk songs as they bring out the thoughts, cravings, joy and sorrow of the working masses. In the back drop of manual labour oriented trade such as agriculture, fishing, cart riding and lime crushing such trade songs emerged in Tamil Nadu.

The labourers rights and desires in the context of the difficulties encountered by them in the spheres of politics, culture and ideology, in the work spot are revealed in these songs. The chief purpose of this research is to analyse such rights related thoughts in the context of the growing principle of “Human Rights Today”.

The first chapter entitled “Trade songs in Floklore” deals with the nature, the growth and kinds of folklore. It also explains the folk trade songs and the kinds of agriculture oriented and non-agriculture oriented trade songs.

In the second chapter entitled, “The History of Human Rights and their Kinds” an attempt has been made to give an illustration on the origin of Human Rights, its definition, their
nature, principles of Human Rights, the contribution of U.N.O in safeguarding Human Rights and the various rights proclaimed in the Declaration of International Human Rights Covenant.

Illustrations regarding citizenship and political rights as enshrined in the declaration of international human rights covenant and also as bestowed by the constitution of India, have been elaborately dealt with in the third chapter.

The fourth chapter entitled “Reflections on Economical Rights”, descriptions on the term ‘Economic’, the economic set-up, the system of communism, capitalism and social classes have been done relating these ideas to the folk craft songs.

An attempt has been made to explain in detail, the plight of the oppressed people, the interpretation of the word ‘Dalit’ and the rights granted for the marginalized people under the Indian constitution in the fifth chapter. A comparison also has been made between the atrocities meted out to the Dalit women and the folk trade songs for a deeper analysis.

The findings arrived at through the above mentioned five chapter, have been summarized in the concluding chapter.