

Child

Welfare, holding additional charge of Tribal Welfare that serious efforts were being made to make the ICDS scheme a success in Chenchu territory.

I

saw children eating fortified laddoo which is provided by ICDS.

5. Almost complete coverage of vegetable saplings in all households:

All

75 gudems in all six mandals are reported to be growing and eating vegetables. I saw vegetable plants in each household I visited. This activity is a difficult task that has met with success except in rocky areas. I asked random children and adults across gudems about their meal

for the day and they were able to tell the vegetables they had consumed.

Fruit saplings have been also cultivated and consumed. The unusual rains

this year had damaged the potential of this activity. One fall out was that the Chenchus were able to tell the officials that the seeds distributed by the government were given after the rains and were therefore of not much use and were returned back to them.

5. Livelihood programmes: The project had initially planned for enhancing

the traditional livelihood activities of the Chenchus through scientific

training in honey and gum extraction. Training was successfully carried out by Centre for Science in Villages Wardha for 140 males in honey and 220 women in gum extraction. Additionally training in rock bee management

was carried out. The training details are reported in the six monthly report.

In this visit I saw Chenchu women being trained in leaf plate making.

This

is an additional livelihood activity that was not originally planned for

in the project but is being carried out by BDS staff at no additional expenditure from the budget. Originally the women would just collect the

leaves and sell them but by learning this skill they will earn much more

since the commercial demand for leaf plates is high. About 200 women across 5 villages have completed the training and have started selling plates at Rs. 30/ per 100 plates. As the speed of weaving improves, the women will earn more. Training has been initiated in two more habitations

namely Mallikaarjunapuram and Chenchikutta.

The Principal Secretary also said that her department had separately initiated self help groups of women with some success.

6. Sensitization of ITDA and Health staff has happened as seen by the above achievements.

Qualitative Changes observed from 2005 to current visit

1. Improved health seeking behavior among the Chenchus: The Chenchus I spoke to were aware of the location and function of the PHCs, timings and were seeking and getting medical intervention from the government. In 2005, the staff of the PHC that I had visited said that Chenchus rarely came to PHCs and there was also indifference among the medical