

personnel.

2. The food habits of the Chenchus have improved.

3. Chenchus were more communicative: The Chenchus are a shy community and

in 2005, they were hiding in their homes and even the project staff was sometimes not able to get a word out of them during my visit. This time around, we were surrounded by the men and the women and children answered

all the queries although shyly and no one rushed into their houses.

4. Leadership training: It was an empowering moment for me as a development worker when a completely illiterate community leader sat across me and shared the information that he had about the schemes for his

village, adding that he wanted to know more. He is one of the 12 Chenchus

that represents the community at the state level ITDA body. ITDA Srisaillam

is a Registered Society with Commissioner/Director Tribal Welfare as Chairman and 12 elected members from the Chenchu community as general body members.

The project has identified four more state level representatives across the six districts for leadership training. At each Village, there is a President and a Secretary and BDS has already convened one leadership programme and is about to undertake the next. In addition, they are in touch with a locally formed advocacy group of Chenchus and with individual Chenchu activists.

5. Increased awareness of their own power: The community leader quoted above shared the government report that was circulated among the 12 Chenchu general body members before each ITDA meeting, with BDA staff. This report details the government's performance made under each scheme for each village and is circulated just before the six monthly meeting. Being unaware or illiterate and sometimes corrupt, none of the 12 representatives had ever raised any issue of non compliance or variance from the government claims. This time, they have asked BDS to get the document zeroxed and will share it with their literate villagers and local

activists. They then intend to check if the villages in their mandals have

received all that the document claims and to lobby for their entitlements.

6. Decentralization at the project level: The main project holder has expanded the project staff from 4 volunteers to 13 paid staff including two RMPs and 2 trained ANMs. He has changed his orientation from being almost a loner to giving considerable authority to his staff. The major decentralization is that advocacy and lobbying skills are being transferred to project staff and community leaders. Monitoring of the staff is good.

Shortfalls in the progress of the project

1. Erratic coverage of the advocacy and lobbying for housing: The relocated Chenchus are entitled to housing in government constructed pucca structures. In those gudems that do have houses they are structurally defective and sometimes abandoned. The project has succeeded in getting some houses repaired as detailed in their report but the coverage of their