Majority (83%) of the community representatives reported that they consulted the above mentioned aspects at the initial stages of the planning and rarely discussed the aspects related to implementation and monitoring of the programme. Similarly, among the community representatives only village head, president of women organizations and primary teachers were consulted more of time than the other representatives which reveal the non-involvement of community representatives in the ICDS programme in BTAD area. The reasons for non-involvement of community, as reported by the community members firstly, the ICDS functionaries not able to take any initiative to approach community representatives. Secondly, the community representatives particularly, in case of new projects. were not aware about the need of community involvement in the programme.

Thus, from the analysis of the data collected from the various sources it clears that both the community and the AWWs failed to establish desired interaction due to lack of skills for mobilizing community participation. But the study revealed that a higher percentage (89.28%) of adolescent girls were coming forward to help in AWCs activities.

The study again stated that all the teacher encouraged the village women to take advice from the AWW in child care practices and the AWWs discussed the problems faced by her with them. All the community members, beneficiaries (women) in the study admitted that ICDS with its package of services is helpful in all round development of children of
primary education, drop-out reduction in primary school to some extent. Particularly, it helps in increasing awareness of mothers regarding importance of early childhood period and related education. As reported by community members (89%) relation between AWWs and children were cordial. After all, according to the community members AWCs has played significant role in improving the academic environment of the locality. So, in regard to assumptions number five that due to various reasons community involvement in ICDS was not in the desired level but community's perception about ICDS was favourable. The tribal community had accepted the ICDS programme for the development of the women and children.

******

(207)