



# A Fairy Tale for All ?

A Rapid Assessment of IDEI's Treadle Pump Programme in Uttar Pradesh, and its Impact on Children's Welfare

June 2007



acumen  
FUND

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This rapid assessment was conducted in June 2007 with the objective of assessing the impact of IDEI's treadle pump programme on children in three districts of Uttar Pradesh (Bahraich, Gonda and Hardoi). In total, 30 households were surveyed in seven villages.

The study confirmed that children operate the pumps on an average of 30 minutes a day. There was no increase in the time spent by the children, on household and other chores, due to their participation in operating the treadle pump.

The study also highlighted four major benefits for children operating the treadle pumps:

First, the treadle pumps seem to significantly reduce the seasonal migration of the father thus reducing the reliance on wage labour. This has created a more stable family environment for the children. In 40% of the households surveyed, the father would migrate seasonally to nearby towns and cities. This trend reduced when the treadle pumps were adopted.

The field survey also evidenced the very positive impact of the treadle pumps on children's nutrition. Milk, green and leafy vegetables were added to the family diet. Milk was introduced in 83% of the cases and green vegetables were added to the diet in 100% of the cases.

Finally, the treadle pump did not seem to disrupt children's education since the operating hours of the pumps did not conflict with school hours. Moreover, the additional available income created through the use of the pump greatly benefited the education of the children. In over half of the cases, the parents bought books for their children from the additional income; in more isolated cases, the parents bought a bicycle that their children could use to go to school or placed a child at a private school.

The significant welfare generated by the treadle pump seemed to extend to the children.

