



TEN THOUSAND  
VILLAGES



### About the Artisans

## Dhaka Handicrafts

Earning a living can empower women, particularly those who live in rural communities. But there has always been a challenge in rural Bangladesh—it's not socially acceptable for women to work outside the home. So why not bring the work to the women instead?

Dhaka Handicrafts does just that. Dhaka is a worker-owned company that markets traditional handcrafted items for rural artisans in Bangladesh. Targeting families with a per capita income of less than \$85 a year, Dhaka represents about 16,000 artisans working in 64 groups—including the many women in rural areas who turn jute, the so-called “golden fibre” and other grasses, into sturdy handmade baskets. In this way, women have a livelihood, they do not have to move to already overcrowded cities, and many maintain they now feel they have a voice in their homes!

## Reversible Jute Tote Bag

Tote groceries, books and snacks around in this reversible bag handcrafted in jute and cotton. Simply turn inside out to sport a whole new look. In Bangladesh, where this bag is made by hand, jute is called the “golden fibre.” And no wonder. Being an annual crop, reed-like jute, which grows three metres high, can be planted and harvested each year, rather than deforesting entire areas. The fibre is also 100% biodegradable and recyclable. Assorted colours and patterns.



### Materials:

jute, cotton

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**Travel the world with each visit to Ten Thousand Villages.**

Learn how Fair Trade really makes a difference. Our goal is to provide vital, fair income to artisans by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America. Ten Thousand Villages sells product from more than 30 countries, providing work for nearly 60,000 people around the world.

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