

WOVEN WORKS

INDIA

Years ago, the practice of caste discrimination was made illegal in India. But the age old system is not so easily cut from the culture's fabric. Many of India's poor are still considered "untouchable." Their place in society is confined to the most grueling jobs—collecting garbage, cleaning homes, and laborious farm work. Without education, many are tricked into lives of slavery or forced to sell themselves in the red light districts. Offering dignity and hope are tiny coffee shops and a five story factory, tucked within India's busiest cities. Woven Works employs and empowers the outcasts. Safe working conditions and fair trade wages are offered to every employee, from truck drivers and managers to baristas and weavers, who design their own fabrics. Lavish textiles, jewelry, and gifts are sold alongside refreshing smoothies and high-quality coffees. When you buy their hand-crafted accessories, you support dignity, hope, and healing for the unwanted and the unwelcomed.



STORIES OF RESCUE & EMPOWERMENT

COUNTRY: INDIA • PROGRAM: MICRO-ENTERPRISE



Dipak

Dipak can't read and he doesn't want to. Too many times, those who read and write have cheated and tricked him. For Dipak, education is a sign of "High Cast," a people group that actively excludes and despises him. At a young age, his "untouchable" status forced him to move away from everything he knew in order to find work. Far from home, he spent hours driving a rickshaw across town, but the money wasn't enough. His family's mounting medical bills sunk them further into poverty. On a visit to the hospital, Dipak was approached by a Woven Works manager and soon, a number of people rallied around him. They were determined to see his family find a future of hope and healing. Today, Dipak is a valued member of the Woven Works community. He works hard in the café, while offering joy, inspiration, and loving advice to those around him. The scars of the caste system have long since been left behind, empowerment and dignity taking their place.

*For more stories of rescue & empowerment, please visit our story gallery at www.warinternational.org/story-gallery
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