

# Godavari Lace

These beautiful hand crocheted accessories are produced by the Godavari Delta Women Lace Artisans Co-op Cottage Industrial Society (GDWLACCIS) in south eastern India



Women in this area were taught lace-making by a Scottish missionary over 100 years ago. Unfortunately the artisans were quickly exploited by middlemen leaving them impoverished and others to benefit from their skill

Frustrated by the continuous exploitation one of the artisans, Mrs Hemalatha approached the All India Handicrafts Board with a view to forming a co-operative for these women. It took 2 years of travelling around 30 villages and much opposition from the middlemen, leading women to go on hunger strike, to achieve formation of the co-operative in May 1979. There are now around 1000 women working with GDWLACCIS



The social premium from the sale of their products provides free eye tests and glasses to artisans, money to widows and those too old to work, and rice and presents to AIDS orphans. They also make free school uniforms. All also receive blankets and saris, and extra in the event of a natural disaster such as the major floods in 2008.