

# PROSPERITY TOTAS



Prosperity totas are decorative hangings used by families in India to garner luck and wealth. The totas consist of a string of stuffed or carved animal designs strung together with beads and bells to make a beautiful piece of decor. Tradition has it that when a family hangs these totas in their doorway or window, they bring about good luck and auspiciousness to the household and the family members.

Today, women artisans in the village of Chota Narena, India, use a school as their gathering place to make these decorations. After the school day is over and their families are fed, the wives, sisters, daughters and grandmothers of the village convene to craft the totas. They group receives money to purchase raw materials in advance, forgoing having to take out loans. Each member of the group has a different task on the tota assemble line. They also use this time to catch up with each other, talking about gossip of the village and strategies for business!

These women directly benefit from the sale of the totas. Their income supplements their husbands' income, and together they are able to pay for their children's schooling and higher education, materials, food, and home supplies. Your purchase helps to ensure this artform thrives for generations to come!

