**Tool: Vote with Your Feet**

*Source: SAA Manual, adapted from “Values Clarification” Tool #9, page 85*

**Time needed:** 30-45 minutes

**Materials needed:** Index cards, tape, SAA Manual (pages 86-88)

**Purpose:** To explore the diversity of opinions in regards to commonly held beliefs, expose participants to differing opinions, and give participants an opportunity to reflect on their own attitudes around commonly held beliefs. (Note: this activity can be conducted anonymously using the Tool “Four Corners.”)

**Notes to the Facilitator:**

‘Vote with Your Feet’ should **only be used for exploring non-threatening** norms and beliefs. Use the anonymous version of this tool, ‘Four Corners’ for engaging participants in a discussion around sensitive issues like abortion or violence.

**Advanced Preparation:** On four separate index cards, write one of the following on each: **Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree**. Place each of them on a wall in opposite corners of the room, taped so that everyone can see them (on the wall, for example).

**Step 1:** Inform participants that you will read a statement and that each participant is to move to the side of the room with the specific index card that reflects **their own** attitude or opinion about the statement. Tell participants that this is a group learning exercise, where everyone in the group gets to give their opinion on the statements and reflect on their own attitudes around commonly held beliefs.

**Notes to the Facilitator:**

Remind participants that they should show each other respect and refrain from judging, interrupting or ridiculing others. The objective is to understand the diversity of opinions and give everyone an opportunity to reflect on their own attitudes around commonly held beliefs.

It is also critical to inform participants that they should respect the privacy of others by **keeping anything discussed confidential.** However, remind participants that **confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.** As such, **no one is obligated to participate or share** something they are uncomfortable discussing and **may sit out** any question or activity. Remember, the purpose is self-reflection, not self-disclosure.
**Step 2:** Read each statement one by one and allow participants to move to a corner of the room. After reading each statement, allow enough time for discussion (see below).

**Example Statements**
(can be adapted as needed, refer to pages 86-88 of SAA Manual for more statements)
- It is a women’s responsibility to avoid getting pregnant
- A woman should choose whether or not to have sex, just the same as her husband can
- Changing diapers, giving a child a bath, and feeding the children are only the mother’s responsibility

**Step 3:** For each statement, approach at least 2 groups (e.g. you can approach the largest group and the smallest group) and ask each separately:
- Would someone care to share with the group why you are where you are?
- How does it feel to be in the group you are in? (Note to facilitator: the small group may have just one or two people—you can probe how it feels to be in the minority?)

**Sample discussions**
Below are listed some of the possible discussion points that may arise from participants based on previous field experience with this exercise.

“It is a women’s responsibility to avoid getting pregnant.”
- Agree – Since the woman is ultimately who will carry the baby in pregnancy, she must protect herself from getting pregnant.
- Disagree – The decision should be made between both husband and wife.

“A woman should choose whether or not to have sex, just the same as her husband can.”
- Agree – Women should not be forced to have sex and her partner should know when she is ready; when she is respected, she will desire sex more and will be prepared.
- Disagree – After long days at work the woman should be prepared to have sex with her husband, it is important for their relationship (discussion referred back to the first statement – how can a woman protect herself from unintended pregnancy when she cannot decide when to have sex?)

“Changing diapers, giving a child a bath, and feeding the children are only the mother’s responsibility.”
- Agree – It is our culture; even when men are involved in these tasks they are ‘helping’ women. It is ultimately a woman’s role to do this.
- Disagree – There should be discussion between parents on the needs of children.

**Step 4:** To close the exercise, thank participants for their contributions, and summarize with the following key points:
- Our values and attitudes are not “right or wrong”. They are simply the lens through which we view our world.
• Our attitudes and values are often contextual and situational – they are not often black and white. It may not be easy to know how we feel.
• Even people who seem to be like us and who we respect may have different ideas and opinions – it is our responsibility to respect these differences.

Other Resources
See other examples in ISOFI Toolkit, “Introductory Exercise 5”