Abstract

Norms of behavior have a great effect on humans' behavior. Norms of honesty, fairness and proper behavior shape the performance of societies. But what is considered an acceptable behavior in one period may be considered a totally unacceptable in another period. Norms of behavior keep changing over time. The paper presents a setup in which the importance of each norm is being changed endogenously depending on individuals' behavior. The stable social norms may change as a result of a shock. Crisis may provide an exogenous shock that may change people's attitude towards these norms of behavior. The effect of crisis may depend on the nature of the action, its observability, the relationship between deviation from the norm of behavior and the occurrence or severity of the crisis.