

## ABSTRACT

Preparedness behaviour or self-protective behaviour is influenced by demographic, personality, social, cognitive, and environmental factors. The present study tests whether these factors influence preparedness in two characteristically different weather related disasters of flood and heat wave. Data were collected from 300 people each from flood prone and heat wave affected areas of Orissa. Results revealed that while elderly people, members of joint families and of high income families were more prepared for flood; middle-aged and members of extended families were more prepared for heat wave. People having self-esteem and sense of mastery were more prepared for both flood and heat wave. Though, dependence proneness was an established negative attribute, it facilitated flood and heat wave preparedness. Disaster education and resources, not only facilitated flood and heat wave preparedness but also drastically reduced the adverse effects of anxiety on preparedness behaviour. People having disaster experience and education were less prepared when they were externally controlled. Disaster experience and education enhanced risk perception and risk perception furthered flood preparedness but could not facilitate heat wave preparedness. While genealogical and economic attachment enhanced flood preparedness of the residents of flood prone areas of Orissa, religious attachment did not.

**KEY WORDS:** *preparedness behaviour, demography, disaster experience, education, personality, risk perception, place attachment flood, heat wave.*