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THE US-ISRAEL/IRAN CONFLICT: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE NIGERIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

Dr. Iyanuoluwa Samuel Adelakun
Department of Educational Management and Business Studies
Faculty of Education, Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Nigeria
adelakuniyanuoluwasamuel@gmail.com

Dr. Olufemi Adewale Adedokun
Department of Geography,
Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo, Nigeria
adedokun.olufemi1764@fcesoyo.edu.ng

&
Mrs. Victoria Modupe Bankole
Department of Educational Management and Business Studies
Faculty of Education, Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Nigeria
victoria.bankole@fuoye.edu.ng

ABSTRACT

The tensions among the United States, Israel, and Iran continue to reshape global political and economic relations. Developing countries like Nigeria are increasingly affected by these tensions, facing economic hardships, religious crises, and political unrest because they rely on one of these troubled nations for survival. While previous studies mainly focused on the security and diplomatic aspects of the conflict, less attention has been given to its effects on Nigeria's educational system. This study examines the impact of the US-Israel/Iran conflict on Nigerian education, focusing on changes in funding, policy priorities, institutional stability, and students' socio-political awareness. Using a qualitative approach, the research analyses secondary data from academic literature, policy documents, news reports, and institutional materials. Conflict Theory and Globalization Theory underpin the analysis of how international political tensions shape domestic institutions in developing nations. Results show that Nigeria's education sector is indirectly affected by economic instability, inflation, oil price changes, and increased government focus on security. The study also revealed that global political tensions influence debates on religion, foreign policy, and international relations within Nigerian universities. It concludes that external geopolitical conflicts can place substantial pressure on the educational systems in developing countries like Nigeria. Recommendations include increased educational funding, improved policy planning, and curriculum reforms that promote global awareness and peace education.

Keywords: US-Israel/Iran conflict, Nigerian Education System, Geopolitical Conflict, Educational Development, Qualitative Research

Introduction

The international system in recent years has been increasingly shaped by geopolitical tensions, crises, unrest, rivalries, communal clashes, boundary disputes, regional conflicts, and more, whose effects have always extended far beyond their immediate locations. One of the most significant contemporary tensions involves the conflict among the United States, Israel, and Iran. This conflict has developed through ideological disputes, nuclear negotiations, military confrontations, and competing regional interests in the Middle East. Recent escalations have sparked global concerns over international security, economic stability, energy supply disruptions, and diplomatic ambiguity (Vox, 2025).

The impacts of geopolitical conflicts are rarely confined to the countries directly involved because the world operates within an increasingly interconnected global economy, where developing countries often face indirect consequences such as inflation, oil price fluctuations, foreign exchange instability, and disruptions in global markets during socioeconomic unrest in any region. Recent studies have shown that geopolitical crises and global economic uncertainty significantly impact developing economies, weakening fiscal stability and increasing socio-economic pressures (Oladipo et al., 2024). Over the years, Nigeria has remained vulnerable due to its dependence on oil revenues, economic fragility, and ongoing developmental challenges. Fluctuations in global oil prices and economic instability will continue to influence government spending priorities, including investments in critical sectors like education (Fagbemi & Fajingbesi, 2024).

Education plays a fundamental role in the sustainable socio-economic development of any country by ensuring the proper formation of human capital, social integration, and political awareness. An educated population is a powerful resource that can drive a nation's development (Adelakun, 2020). However, Nigeria's education system continues to face serious structural challenges, such as inadequate funding, limited infrastructure, policy and political instability, insecurity, and institutional instability. Existing studies indicate that rising inflation and economic pressures have negatively affected educational funding, learning conditions, and institutional development across the country (Ahmed & Okoye, 2024; Adelakun, 2025). These challenges suggest that external geopolitical tensions could worsen global economic conditions and indirectly impact Nigeria's education system.

Despite the increasing global importance of the US-Israel/Iran conflict, most existing research has focused mainly on its diplomatic, economic, security, and military aspects, with limited attention to its impact on the education systems of developing countries like Nigeria. Most recent research examines issues related to regional security, global oil markets, and foreign policy realignments, while little scholarly work has explored how geopolitical tensions influence educational funding, policy priorities, institutional stability, and socio-political discourse within Nigerian educational institutions. This gap underscores the need for a broader understanding of how global conflicts affect the development of educational sectors in vulnerable economies. Against

this background, this study examines the implications of the US-Israel/Iran conflict for the Nigerian education system, specifically focusing on educational funding, policy priorities, institutional stability, and students' socio-political awareness amidst growing global geopolitical uncertainty.

Statement of the Problem

The tensions involving the United States, Israel, and Iran have generated significant global political and economic consequences, particularly for developing countries like Nigeria that highly depend on unstable international markets and external economic conditions. In Nigeria, rising inflation, economic uncertainty, oil price fluctuations, and increasing security concerns continue to mount pressure on the socio-economic sectors, such as education. Simultaneously, the Nigerian education system faces persistent challenges such as underfunding, infrastructural deficits, policy and political instabilities, and institutional vulnerability. Although several studies have examined the diplomatic, economic, and security implications of the US-Israel/Iran conflict, scholarly attentions have not been given much to its potential effects on the educational development of Nigeria. Existing literature has not sufficiently explored how global geopolitical tensions may influence educational financing, policy implementation, institutional stability, and socio-political discussions within Nigerian tertiary institutions. This knowledge gap necessitates the need to study the effects of international geopolitical conflicts on the Nigerian education system.

Research Objectives

The main objective of this study is to examine the implications of the US-Israel/Iran conflict for the Nigerian education system.

The specific objectives of the study are to:

1. examine how the US-Israel/Iran conflict influences educational funding and policy priorities in Nigeria;
2. assess the implications of global geopolitical tensions for institutional stability within the Nigerian education sector; and
3. explore how the conflict affects socio-political awareness and discussions among students in Nigerian tertiary institutions.

Significance of the Study

This study contributes to emerging scholarship on the relationship that coexist between global geopolitical conflicts and educational development in developing countries by examining the indirect implications of the US-Israel/Iran conflict for the Nigerian education system and expanding existing discussions beyond security and economic concerns to include educational and institutional dimensions.

The study is also significant for concerned personnel, such as educational administrators, policymakers, and curriculum planners, in strengthening the resilience of the education sector against external economic and geopolitical tensions. The findings may support policy reforms aimed at improving educational financing, institutional stability, and curriculum development. In addition, the study highlights the importance of promoting peace education, global awareness, and

critical engagement with international affairs within Nigerian educational institutions.

Literature Review

Geopolitical Conflicts and Global Instability

The Middle East has remained one of the most politically sensitive regions in the world due to its strategic importance in global energy supply, international security, and diplomatic relations in recent years. The contemporary global system has become increasingly faced with geopolitical tensions, regional conflicts, and strategic rivalries, whose effects extend far beyond the countries that are directly involved. Conflicts within the Middle East have often influenced global political and economic stability because of the interconnected and interdependent nature of the international system of the world.

Recent studies have shown that geopolitical instability significantly contributes to economic instability, inflation, trade disruptions, and fluctuations in global energy markets (Alen & Yotov, 2025; Banna et al, 2023; Yang et al, 2023). In many cases, regional conflicts develop quickly into global concerns since they can affect the international oil supply processes, security cooperation, and financial markets. Developing countries are usually more vulnerable to these external shocks due to economic reliance, limited institutional resilience, and unstable fiscal structures. In Nigeria, the effects of global economic disruptions are often reflected in rising inflation, reduced public spending capacity, disrupted socio-economic budgets, and increasing pressure on social sectors such as education (Fagbemi & Fajingbesi, 2024; Adelakun, 2025).

Unlike the earlier centuries, scholars argued that modern geopolitical conflicts are no longer limited to military confrontations alone; they now involve economic sanctions, diplomatic rivalry, cyber threats, ideological competition, nuclear weapon tussles, and struggles for regional influence (Hurrell, 2024). Owing to this, conflicts involving major global actors such as the United States gradually shape political and economic realities across different regions of the world. This growing interconnectedness explains why tensions in the Middle East continue to attract global attention and concerns.

The US-Israel/Iran Conflict in Contemporary International Relations

The conflict involving the United States, Israel, and Iran remains one of the most important geopolitical tensions in contemporary international relations. In recent years, the conflict has been basically driven by strategic security interests, ideological differences, nuclear diplomacy, and regional power tussles. Tensions have increased due to concerns surrounding Iran's nuclear programme, military alliances, and the broader security architecture of the Middle East (Oladipo et al, 2024). The United States continues to maintain a close strategic alliance with Israel while attempting to restrain Iran's regional influence and nuclear capacity. Scholars noted that the policies of the US toward Iran have consistently focused on nuclear non-proliferation, regional stability, and the protection of allied interests within the Middle East (Takeyh & Maloney, 2024). Israel similarly views the growth of Iran's military influence and nuclear ambitions as

major security threats to the country and to the entire world. These tensions have contributed to repeated diplomatic crises, confrontations, attacks, and broader regional instability.

Beyond the Middle East, the conflict has wider global implications because of the region's importance to international oil/energy markets and global economic stability. Escalations in the conflict frequently causes the increase in oil prices, market uncertainty, and concerns about global security cooperation (World Bank, 2024). For developing countries such as Nigeria, these consequences are particularly significant because economic stability, government revenue, socio-economic, and national development planning are closely connected to variations in the global oil market. The conflict, therefore, demonstrates how regional geopolitical tensions can indirectly affect the domestic atmosphere of countries far away from the immediate conflict zone.

Global Conflicts and Educational Development

The relationship between conflict and educational development has gained increasing scholarly attention in recent years. Studies identified wars, insecurity, policy and political instability, and economic crises as factors that have repeatedly weakened the educational systems through inadequate funding, infrastructural damage, displacement, and disruption in educational activities (UNESCO, 2024; Adelakun & Olorunsola, 2024). Although much of the literature focuses on countries directly affected by armed conflict, emerging scholarship suggests that global geopolitical crises can also affect education systems indirectly in countries that are economically vulnerable. One major connection between conflict and education is economic instability; international conflicts often contribute to inflation, rising public expenditure on security, currency depreciation, and broader socio-economic instabilities. In developing countries, these pressures often reduce government capacity to invest in education and other social sectors (Oladipo et al, 2024). Educational institutions may consequently experience inadequate funding, infrastructural deficits, reduced research support, and even declining learning conditions and environments.

Global political unrest can also influence educational environments beyond financial concerns. Universities and tertiary institutions are important spaces for political discussions, ideological engagement, and intellectual debates. Courses such as peace and conflict studies, criminology, and political sciences are majored in discussions associated with security, peace, politics, and international relations. Studies suggested that international conflicts shape students' political awareness, perceptions of global affairs, and understanding of issues relating to diplomacy, religion, and nationalism (OECD, 2023). Sequel to this, geopolitical conflicts affect education not only through economic channels but also through social, political, and ideological dimensions. The connection between conflict, economy, and education is particularly relevant in developing countries where institutional resilience remains relatively weak. This relationship highlights the broader ways in which international political instability can affect educational development, even in

countries like Nigeria that are not directly involved in armed conflict.

Nigeria's Educational Vulnerability in Periods of Economic Instability

Over the years, Nigeria's education sector has continued to face a longstanding structural and financial challenge that limits educational development and institutional stability. Despite the importance attached to education in the sustainable national growth and human capital development, the sector seems to still be faced by inadequate funding, infrastructural deficits, policy inconsistency, insecurity, and weak institutional governance (Okoh & Nwachukwu, 2024). These challenges have continued to affect the quality of teaching, learning, and educational administration across different levels of the education system in Nigeria. Economic instability further worsens these conditions with consistently rising inflation, exchange rate volatility, unemployment, and declining purchasing power, thereby having a negative effect on educational access, institutional management, and students' learning conditions in the Nigerian education system (Ahmed & Okoye, 2024; Adelakun, 2021). During periods of economic recession, government attention is often redirected toward economic stabilization and security concerns, which appears to leave education aside, thereby exposing it to insufficient financial support. This pattern reflects the vulnerability of the Nigerian education system to wider national and international economic pressures and instabilities.

Nigeria's economic dependence on oil revenue also increases its exposure to external geopolitical shocks. Fluctuations and instabilities in global oil prices significantly affect government revenue generation and public expenditure (Fagbemi & Fajingbesi, 2024). Consequently, international conflicts capable of disrupting global energy markets may indirectly affect educational financing, infrastructural development, and institutional sustainability within the country where there is a shortage of oil revenue. Existing overcrowded classrooms, inadequate learning facilities, inconsistencies in staff payments, and policy instabilities further weaken the ability of the education sector to respond effectively during periods of economic crisis. To this end, these realities suggest that external geopolitical tensions can have meaningful implications for educational development in Nigeria, even when the country is not directly involved in the conflict itself.

Students' Socio-Political Awareness and Global Political Discourse

Tertiary institutions play an important role in moulding political awareness and understanding, civic participation, and intellectual engagements among students. Tertiary institutions often serve as an atmosphere where local and international political issues are debated and interpreted in related departments. Recently, global political tensions have increasingly influenced discussions relating to religion, nationalism, foreign policy, peace and conflict studies, criminology, and ideological identity within higher educational environments. The growth of digital media and online communication platforms has expanded students' access to international political information and global events, even far beyond what they

were taught in the classroom walls (Adelakun et al, 2023; Jester et al, 2026). Social media platforms, online news outlets, and political commentary now strongly influence how students understand, analyse, and interpret international conflicts.

In multicultural societies such as Nigeria, discussions surrounding Middle East conflicts may also intersect with religious identities and ideological perspectives, particularly within tertiary institutions where political engagement tends to be more active. Scholars further argued that exposure to international political conflicts contributes to the development of political attitudes and socio-political awareness among young people (OECD, 2023). Debates surrounding the US-Israel/Iran conflict may therefore influence students' understanding of diplomacy, global power relations, peace and conflict studies, and international politics. While these discussions can encourage political awareness and critical thinking, they may also contribute to ideological polarization and social tension within the educational environment. The increasing influence of global political discourse within Nigerian tertiary institutions reveals that educational environments are becoming more connected to international developments. This corroborates the argument that geopolitical conflicts can affect educational systems not only through economic pressures but also through social, political, and ideological processes.

Theoretical Underpinnings

Conflict Theory

Conflict Theory provides a useful background for understanding how struggles for power, influence, and control influence political relations and affect social institutions across societies. The theory is closely linked to the ideas of Karl Marx, who argued that competition over resources and dominance often creates tension and instability among communities and societies. Although Marx focused mainly on class relations and economic inequality, contemporary scholars have expanded the theory to explain international conflicts, geopolitical rivalries, and struggles among states for strategic influence (Ritzer & Stepnisky, 2023). In the context of international relations, Conflict Theory explains how powerful states pursue political, economic, and security interests in ways that often create rivalry and instability. The tensions involving the United States, Israel, and Iran reflect this wider struggle for regional influence, strategic control, and ideological dominance within the Middle East. Issues surrounding Iran's nuclear programme, US security interests, and Israel's regional concerns have continued to deepen political tensions and diplomatic unrest in the region (Takeyh & Maloney, 2024).

The theory further suggests that conflicts among the main global actors rarely remain confined to the countries directly involved. Political rivalry and competition over strategic resources such as oil often create wider socio-economic and institutional consequences for other dependent countries, particularly developing economies with fragile socio-economic structures. In Nigeria, fluctuations in oil prices, inflationary pressures, and changes in government spending priorities linked to global tensions may indirectly affect socio-economic sectors such as education (Fagbemi & Fajingbesi, 2024). Conflict

Theory is therefore relevant to this study because it helps to explain how international political rivalries and conflicts can influence domestic institutions in developing countries. The theory provides a basis for understanding how the US-Israel/Iran conflict contributes to economic pressures, policy challenges, and institutional instability, which may also affect the Nigerian education system.

Globalization Theory

Globalization Theory also offers another important perspective for understanding how regional conflicts generate wider global consequences. The theory accentuates the growing interconnectedness of countries through global trade, political relations, communication systems, and economic networks. In today's globalized world, developments in one region can quickly affect political and economic conditions in other parts of the world (Alkharafi & Alsabah, 2025). One of the central assumptions of Globalization Theory is that modern economies are highly interconnected, thereby regional conflicts are no longer isolated events because their effects often spread across international markets and global institutions. Geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, for example, frequently influence global oil prices, inflation, trade relations, and financial stability (World Bank, 2024). These consequences are usually more severe for developing countries that depend heavily on unstable global markets and external economic conditions.

Nigeria's huge dependence on oil revenue makes it vulnerable to external geopolitical tensions. Changes in global oil prices influence government revenue directly, public expenditure, and socio-economic planning. During periods of global instability, rising inflation, and economic uncertainty often mount further pressure on public sectors such as education (Oladipo et al, 2024). In this regard, Globalization Theory helps explain how a conflict occurring outside Nigeria can still influence the educational finance, infrastructural development, and institutional stability within the country. The theory helps to understand the growing influence of global political events on students' socio-political awareness. Through social media, digital communication, and international news platforms, students are progressively exposed to global political debates and ideological discussions. Consequently, tensions involving the United States, Israel, and Iran may influence conversations surrounding religion, foreign policy, and international relations within Nigerian tertiary institutions.

Relevance of the Theories to the Study

Conflict Theory and Globalization Theory are both relevant to this study because they provide harmonizing explanations for understanding the relationship between the US-Israel/Iran conflict and the Nigerian education system. Conflict Theory explains the role of power tussles, geopolitical rivalry, and international political competition in shaping global instability. It helps to clarify how tensions among powerful states and countries can lead to economic and institutional pressures that may affect developing countries such as Nigeria. Globalization Theory complements this perspective by explaining how the effects of regional conflicts spread across interconnected economies and

institutions. The theory helps explain how fluctuations in oil prices, inflationary pressures, and economic instability generated by geopolitical tensions can influence educational finance, policy implementation, and institutional stability in Nigeria. It also explains how global political conflicts shape socio-political awareness and ideological discussions among students within tertiary institutions. Collectively, both theories provide a comprehensive framework for understanding the central argument of this study: that geopolitical conflicts involving major global actors can indirectly influence educational systems in developing countries through economic, political, and socio-institutional processes.

Methodology

This study adopted a qualitative research design to examine the implications of the US-Israel/Iran conflict for the Nigerian education system. The qualitative approach was considered appropriate because the study seeks to understand and interpret the socio-political, economic, and institutional effects of geopolitical tensions rather than measure variables statistically. It also allows for a deeper understanding of how global political conflicts influence educational development and institutional realities within developing countries. The study relied mainly on secondary sources of data from relevant materials obtained from peer-reviewed journal articles, scholarly books, policy documents, institutional reports, newspaper publications, and reports from international organizations such as UNESCO, the World Bank, and OECD. Additional information was sourced from government-related educational reports and credible academic publications relating to geopolitical conflict, globalization, economic instability, and educational development in Nigeria. The use of multiple secondary data sources helped provide broader insight into the relationship between global political tensions and the Nigerian education system.

The study adopted the documentary method of data collection, where relevant materials published between 2023 and 2026 were purposively selected based on their relevance to the objectives of the study. The selected documents focused on issues relating to the US-Israel/Iran conflict, geopolitical instability, economic crises, globalization, and educational challenges in Nigeria. The purposive selection of recent and credible data materials ensured that the study engaged with current debates and contemporary realities surrounding global political tensions and their broader implications for education.

Data collected for the study were analysed using thematic analysis. This method made it possible to identify, organize, and interpret major themes emerging from the reviewed materials. The data were grouped into themes such as economic instability, oil price fluctuations, educational funding, institutional vulnerability, and students' socio-political awareness. Thematic analysis also enabled the study to critically examine how geopolitical tensions involving the United States, Israel, and Iran may indirectly affect the Nigerian education system through economic and socio-political processes.

Ethical Considerations

The study relied entirely on publicly accessible secondary materials. Proper

citation and acknowledgment of all sources were maintained throughout the research process in line with academic standards. The study also ensured accurate representation of information obtained from reviewed materials in order to maintain credibility and avoid misinterpretation. All cited documents and studies in the study were duly referenced.

Discussion of Findings

1. Economic Instability and Educational Funding in Nigeria

Findings from this study revealed that the US-Israel/Iran conflict indirectly affects the Nigerian education system through economic instability. Even though Nigeria may not be directly involved in the conflict, tensions in the Middle East continue to influence global oil prices, inflation, and broader economic conditions, which also affect the Nigerian economy, which directly controls the educational funding of the country. This reflects the interconnected nature of the global economy, where regional conflicts often generate consequences beyond their immediate locations. For Nigeria, fluctuations in global oil prices remain particularly important because the country depends heavily on oil revenue. Instability in the international oil market affects government revenue, public expenditure, and national development planning (World Bank, 2024). The findings suggest that during periods of economic instability, sectors such as education often experience financial instability as governments focus more on economic management and stabilization. This situation has important implications for sustainable educational development. Rising inflation and declining public resources weaken educational financing, infrastructural development, and institutional management within the Nigerian education sector (Ahmed & Okoye, 2024). The findings, therefore, reveal that external geopolitical tensions can intensify existing financial challenges affecting educational institutions in Nigeria. The practical implication of this is that sustainable educational development in Nigeria remains closely connected to broader global economic conditions. Socio-economic instability generated by geopolitical conflicts may reduce the ability of institutions to provide quality learning environments, research opportunities, and sustainable educational services.

2. Security Priorities and Educational Policy Challenges

Another finding from the study reveals that global geopolitical tensions may influence government priorities in such a way that they indirectly affect education. During periods of international instability, governments often devote greater attention to security concerns, economic protection, and political stability. In developing countries like Nigeria, this shift may reduce policy attention toward long-term educational planning and institutional development. This finding supports the argument of Conflict Theory, which explains how political rivalry and struggles for influence shape state priorities and institutional outcomes. Although the US-Israel/Iran conflict occurs outside Nigeria, its broader political and socio-economic consequences may still influence domestic policy direction.

The findings suggest that the implementation of educational policy may become more inconsistent during periods of economic and political instability. Existing challenges, such as weak policy continuity,

inadequate funding, and limited institutional sustenance, may become more severe when governments redirect attention toward security and economic concerns (Ojewale, 2024; Okoh & Nwachukwu, 2024). This establishes that educational development is not isolated from global political realities. International tensions and economic pressures can indirectly shape domestic governance and affect the stability of educational policies in developing countries.

3. Institutional Vulnerability and Educational Development

Another major finding is that the Nigerian education system remains highly vulnerable to external economic and political tensions. Existing problems such as inadequate facilities, overcrowded classrooms, insufficient funding, weak institutional support, and limited educational resources already affect the quality and stability of the sector. Economic instability linked to geopolitical tensions may further deepen these structural challenges. The findings show that fluctuations in government revenue and rising inflation put more pressure on educational institutions. Educational institutions may struggle with infrastructural maintenance, staff welfare, research funding, and effective service delivery during this period of socio-economic instability (Oladipo et al, 2024; Ekundayo & Adelakun,2022).

This finding corroborates the argument of Globalization Theory that developing countries with fragile institutional structures are more exposed to the effects of global crises. By implication, external geopolitical conflicts have a great effect on the educational system, especially in developing countries like Nigeria, even when being geographically far away from the conflict zone. The findings, therefore, establish the need for stronger educational resilience and more sustainable funding approaches within the Nigerian education system.

4. Students' Socio-Political Awareness and Global Political Discourse

The study also revealed that the US-Israel/Iran conflict contributes to political discussions and socio-political awareness among students in Nigerian tertiary institutions. Tertiary institutions remain important spaces for intellectual debate and political engagement, especially on issues relating to international affairs, religion, and global power. Recent technological advancement of the world has exposed students to digital media and online communication platforms, which now allow them to have easy access to related information concerning global political events and ideological debates (Venus et al, 2025). As a result, discussions surrounding the Middle East conflict increasingly shape conversations about foreign policy, religion, diplomacy, and international politics within tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

The findings suggest that global political conflicts influence not only economic conditions but also the intellectual environment within educational institutions. Exposure to international political issues may encourage political awareness and critical thinking among students. However, it may also contribute to ideological disagreements and socio-political tensions, particularly within multicultural and religiously diverse environments such as Nigeria. This demonstrates that the effects of geopolitical conflicts extend beyond economics and security to include social,

religious, and ideological dimensions within the educational sector.

5. Globalization, Dependency, and Educational Vulnerability

Findings from this study further revealed that globalization and economic dependency increase the vulnerability of developing countries to external geopolitical conflicts. The study established that regional tensions involving major global actors can generate wider consequences because of the interconnected nature of the modern global system of the world. Nigeria's dependence on oil revenue makes the country particularly vulnerable to instability within global energy markets and the economy. Changes in oil prices and the global economy directly affect government revenue, public spending, and institutional development. The findings, therefore, suggest that geopolitical conflicts occurring outside Africa can still influence educational finance and institutional stability within the Nigerian context. This finding supports both Conflict Theory and Globalization Theory. Conflict Theory elucidates how struggles for power and strategic influence can create instability within the international system, while Globalization Theory explains how the effects of these conflicts are spread across interconnected economies and institutions.

Conclusively, findings from the study revealed that the implications of the US-Israel/Iran conflict extend beyond diplomacy and security concerns. Through economic instability, policy pressures, institutional challenges, and socio-political discourse, the conflict indirectly affects sustainable educational development in Nigeria.

Conclusion

This study examined the implications of the US-Israel/Iran conflict for the Nigerian education system within the context of growing global political and economic interconnectedness. Although the conflict is geographically distant from Nigeria, the findings demonstrate that its effects extend beyond the Middle East through economic instability, fluctuations in oil prices, inflationary pressures, and shifting national priorities. These realities demonstrate how external geopolitical tensions can indirectly influence domestic institutions like the educational sector in developing countries like Nigeria.

The study found that economic instability linked to global political tensions places additional pressure on educational financing and institutional development in Nigeria. Existing challenges within the education sector, including inadequate funding, infrastructural deficits, and weak institutional support, become increasingly more prevalent during periods of economic instability. The findings further suggest that when governments focus more on security concerns and economic management, education may receive less policy attention and investment despite its importance in the sustainable socio-economic development of the country and the world at large.

Also, the study revealed that global political conflicts increasingly affect socio-political awareness within Nigerian tertiary institutions. Through digital media and global communication networks, students are more exposed to international political debates relating to religion, diplomacy, foreign policy, peace, conflict, and global power relations. This shows that the

implications of geopolitical conflicts are not limited to economic issues alone but also affect intellectual and socio-political discussions within educational institutions. The findings support the assumptions of Conflict Theory and Globalization Theory. Conflict Theory explains how struggles for power and strategic influence among regions can generate instability that affects weaker economies and institutions. Globalization Theory further explains how the interconnected nature of the modern world allows regional conflicts to produce wider global consequences across economic and institutional systems. Ultimately, the study concludes that educational systems in developing countries like Nigeria are increasingly influenced by external geopolitical realities. This highlights the need for stronger institutional resilience, a sustainable educational financing structure, and long-term policy planning that can respond to global economic and political disruptions. Strengthening the education sector against external shocks and tensions is crucial for sustainable educational development even in an increasingly interconnected world.

Suggestions

Based on the above, the following are suggested as a way forward:

1. Strengthening Educational Financing

The findings of this study show the need for more stable and sustainable funding of the Nigerian education system, since it is vulnerable to economic instability linked to global geopolitical tensions. Educational funding should be protected from sudden economic shocks and related instabilities in oil revenue. More investment in education is necessary to improve infrastructure, research development, institutional stability, and the overall quality of learning. Nigeria's reliance on unstable global oil markets continues to expose socio-economic sectors such as education to financial instabilities. It is therefore recommended to reduce excessive dependence on oil revenue for public financing. There is a need to explore alternative sources of national revenue that can serve as a stronger boost for education through public-private partnerships and educational development programmes, which would help improve the resilience of the educational sector. In addition, emergency support measures should be developed to assist educational institutions during periods of economic crisis and instability. Such measures would help reduce the effects of inflation and financial instability on teaching, learning, and educational institution operations.

2. Policy Stability and Institutional Resilience

There is a need for greater policy consistency and stronger institutional planning within the Nigerian education sector. Frequent policy changes and scrawny implementation frameworks often limit the effectiveness of educational development efforts. During periods of economic and political uncertainty, institutions require policies that are stable, adaptable, and responsive to external challenges. Government, educational authorities, and concerned personnel should therefore strengthen long-term planning and institutional preparedness, such as developing crisis-responsive policies, improving budget management, and strengthening governance within educational institutions. Better institutional planning would improve the ability of

educational institutions to respond effectively to economic pressures and external disruptions. Educational resilience is closely connected to broader national stability; strengthening institutional structures and policy continuity would therefore help reduce the vulnerability of the education sector to global political and economic crises.

3. Curriculum Reform and Global Awareness

There should be a proactive move for curriculum reforms that promote global awareness, peace education, and critical understanding of international political issues. As global conflicts increasingly influence discussions within tertiary institutions, students should be equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to engage constructively with issues relating to diplomacy, conflict resolution, and international relations. Peace education, civic education, criminology, conflict study, and global citizenship education should be strengthened accordingly, at the stages of education, to encourage tolerance, critical thinking, and responsible political engagement. This would help students develop a more balanced understanding of global political events and their implications for society. There should be stronger media literacy education within tertiary institutions. With the growing influence of digital media and online political content, students need the ability to critically assess political information and avoid misinformation or ideological extremism.

4. Economic Diversification and National Development

Dependence on oil revenue continues to increase the country's vulnerability to global geopolitical tensions and instability in international energy markets. As shown in this study, fluctuations in oil prices can indirectly affect educational finance and institutional development. There is then a need for broader economic diversification in Nigeria. Reducing dependence on oil revenue through investment in sectors such as agriculture, technology, manufacturing, and innovation would strengthen economic stability and reduce exposure to external tensions. A more diversified economy would also improve the government's ability to provide consistent support for both education and other sectors. Partnerships should also be encouraged between the public and private sectors to ensure maximum productivity of the educational system. Finally, the study suggests that improving the resilience of Nigeria's education system requires both educational reforms and broader economic strategies capable of responding to global political and economic instabilities.

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