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Government grants and assistance in Brazil: State of the art of scientific production

Subvenções e assistências governamentais no Brasil: Estado da arte da produção científica

Subvenciones y ayudas gubernamentales en Brasil: Estado del arte de la producción científica

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Ana Beatriz Vieira de Sousa
https://orcid.org/0009-0000-1441-7964
Master's degree in Business Administration and Controllership from the Federal University of Ceará (UFC)
anabeatrizvdsousa04@gmail.com

Matheus Lima Silva
https://orcid.org/0009-0002-9357-4953
Master's degree in Business Administration and Controllership from the Federal University of Ceará (UFC)
matheuslimasilvadojo@gmail.com

Paulo Henrique Nobre Parente
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4616-7370
Professor at the Federal University of Ceará (UFC)
PhD in Accounting from the Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB)
paulo.parente@ufc.br

Augusto Cézar de Aquino Cabral
https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8248-4886
Professor at the Federal University of Ceará (UFC)
PhD in Business Administration from the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG)
cabral@ufc.br

Sandra Maria dos Santos
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8515-9146
Professor at the Federal University of Ceará (UFC)
PhD in Economics from the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE)
smsantos@ufc.br

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ABSTRACT

Background: The growing relevance of Government Grants and Assistance (GGA) in promoting economic and social development in Brazil, especially after the adoption of Technical Pronouncement (CPC) 07, motivates the analysis of national scientific production on the subject.
Purpose: This study aimed to investigate the state of the art of Brazilian research on GGA between 2008 and 2024. As specific objectives, it sought to identify the main theoretical and methodological approaches adopted, map the most recurrent research themes, and analyze the profiles of the researchers involved.
Method: The research was conducted through a systematic literature review based on the Web of Science platform. The methodological protocol referred to as the RBS – Roadmap was adopted. This protocol comprises the stages of input, processing, and output, with the support of the StArt software for data organization and analysis.
Results: The findings indicate a predominance of studies developed in collaboration, mostly authored by male researchers affiliated with stricto sensu graduate programs. The methodologies were predominantly quantitative, with descriptive designs. The topics addressed focused on socio-environmental sustainability, accounting disclosure, business strategy, and product sustainability. Additionally, the complexity of the Brazilian tax system was frequently mentioned as a limiting factor to the effectiveness of GGA.
Conclusions: Despite the expansion of the academic debate on the topic, there is still room to deepen critical approaches and explore practical and managerial dimensions of GGA in the Brazilian context. The study contributes by identifying gaps and guiding future research, as well as reinforcing the importance of more transparent and effective public policies.
Keywords: government grants; government assistance; GGA; CPC 07; Web of Science.

RESUMO

Contextualização: A crescente relevância das Subvenções e Assistências Governamentais (SAG) na promoção do desenvolvimento econômico e social no Brasil, especialmente após a adoção do Pronunciamento Técnico (CPC) 07, motiva a análise da produção científica nacional sobre o tema.
Objetivo: Este estudo teve como objetivo geral investigar o estado da arte das pesquisas brasileiras sobre SAG entre os anos de 2008 e 2024. Como objetivos específicos, buscou-se identificar as principais abordagens teóricas e metodológicas adotadas, mapear os temas mais recorrentes nas pesquisas e analisar os perfis dos pesquisadores envolvidos.
Método: A pesquisa foi conduzida por meio de uma revisão sistemática da literatura, baseada na plataforma Web of Science. Adotou-se o protocolo metodológico RBS – Roadmap, composto pelas etapas de entrada, processamento e saída, com apoio do software StArt para organização e análise dos dados.
Resultados: Os resultados indicam uma predominância de estudos desenvolvidos em parceria, majoritariamente compostos por autores do sexo masculino vinculados a programas de pós-graduação stricto sensu. As metodologias utilizadas foram, em sua maioria, quantitativas, com delineamentos descritivos. Os temas abordados concentraram-se nas áreas de sustentabilidade socioambiental, evidenciação contábil, estratégia empresarial e sustentabilidade de produtos. Destaca-se, ainda, a recorrente menção à complexidade do sistema tributário brasileiro como fator limitante à efetividade das SAG.
Conclusões: Apesar da ampliação do debate acadêmico sobre o tema, ainda há espaço para aprofundar abordagens críticas e explorar dimensões práticas e gerenciais das SAG no cenário brasileiro. A pesquisa contribui ao identificar lacunas e orientar futuras investigações, além de reforçar a importância de políticas públicas mais transparentes e eficazes.
Palavras-chave: subvenção governamental; assistência governamental; SAG; CPC 07; Web of Science.

RESUMEN

Contextualización: La creciente relevancia de las Subvenciones y Asistencias Gubernamentales (SAG) en la promoción del desarrollo económico y social en Brasil, especialmente tras la adopción del Pronunciamiento Técnico (CPC) 07, motiva el análisis de la producción científica nacional sobre el tema.

Objetivo: Este estudio tuvo como objetivo general investigar el estado del arte de las investigaciones brasileñas sobre SAG entre los años 2008 y 2024. Como objetivos específicos, se buscó identificar los principales enfoques teóricos y metodológicos adoptados, mapear los temas más recurrentes en las investigaciones y analizar los perfiles de los investigadores involucrados.

Método: La investigación se llevó a cabo mediante una revisión sistemática de la literatura, basada en la plataforma Web of Science. Se adoptó el protocolo metodológico denominado RBS – Roadmap. Este protocolo comprende las etapas de entrada, procesamiento y salida, con el apoyo del software StArt para la organización y el análisis de los datos.

Resultados: Los resultados indican una predominancia de estudios desarrollados en colaboración, mayoritariamente compuestos por autores del sexo masculino vinculados a programas de posgrado stricto sensu. Las metodologías utilizadas fueron, en su mayoría, cuantitativas, con diseños descriptivos. Los temas abordados se concentraron en las áreas de sostenibilidad socioambiental, divulgación contable, estrategia empresarial y sostenibilidad de productos. Asimismo, se destaca la mención recurrente a la complejidad del sistema tributario brasileño como factor limitante para la efectividad de las SAG.

Conclusiones: A pesar de la ampliación del debate académico sobre el tema, aún existe espacio para profundizar enfoques críticos y explorar dimensiones prácticas y gerenciales de las SAG en el contexto brasileño. La investigación contribuye al identificar vacíos y orientar futuras investigaciones, además de reforzar la importancia de políticas públicas más transparentes y eficaces.

Palabras clave: subvenciones gubernamentales; asistencias gubernamentales; SAG; CPC 07; *Web of Science.*

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1 INTRODUCTION

Government Grants and Assistance (GGA) are recognized as an important instrument of public expenditure policy (Schwartz & Clements, 1999). The purpose of these subsidies is to attract investments and stimulate regional economic sectors, being granted by federal, state, or municipal governments to increase operations and finance the promotion of activities of public interest (Crispim, 2011). It is understood, therefore, that such grants, whether financial or non-financial, assist organizations in covering their expenses and, consequently, in achieving their goals (Miranda, Valdevino & Oliveira, 2020).

In Brazil, GGAs are regulated by the Accounting Pronouncement (CPC – *Comitê de Pronunciamentos Contábeis*), specifically CPC 07, issued in 2008. This pronouncement was developed based on the International Accounting Standard 20 (IAS 20), from the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), as part of the convergence process of Brazilian accounting standards to international standards. The purpose of this process consisted of aligning accounting practices among different countries, aiming to improve the comparability and transparency of accounting information (Miranda, Valdevino & Oliveira, 2020).

In this scenario, the advent of CPC 07 brought changes to the measurement, recognition, and disclosure of government grants (Souza et al., 2019), and accounting, as a control instrument, began to play an essential role by evidencing the receipt of GGAs, as well as the effects of this program (Saac & Rezende, 2019). As a result, the benefited organizations had to adapt in order to properly present their financial statements, with the purpose of allowing information users to analyze the consequences of the government grant on the entities' equity structure and results.

Following the issuance of CPC 07, some studies were conducted, dedicating themselves to examining the effects of the standard on accounting disclosure and corporate performance. A non-exhaustive list includes the works of Benetti et al. (2014), Chagas, Araujo, and Damascena (2011), Colares, Camargos, and Leite (2019), and Loureiro, Gallon, and De Luca (2011). Thus, it is observed that events of this nature can influence research and direct academic production toward the investigation and deeper understanding of the phenomenon.

In this sense, it has become a challenge for researchers to track the state, evolution, gaps, and categorization of the body of knowledge in a given area through traditional methods (Öztürk, Kocaman & Kanbach, 2024). Therefore, the systematic review, due to its capacity to significantly propel a field of study, given its rigorous, transparent, and robust approach to synthesizing previous studies (Paul, Khatri & Kaur Duggal, 2023) has received greater attention (Ghorbani, Karampela & Tonner, 2022).

Thus, the following question was formulated: how is the state of the art of scientific production on GGA characterized in the Brazilian context, following the adoption of CPC 07? The objective, therefore, is to investigate the state of the art of scientific production on government grants and assistance in the Brazilian context after the adoption of the aforementioned technical pronouncement (CPC 07).

Based on the search conducted in the Web of Science database, it is possible to identify the authorship profile of the research and the evolution of scientific production in Brazil, as well as to analyze the most utilized methodologies and the main investigated themes, with an emphasis on the changes resulting from the adoption of CPC 07, the most common types of grants, the barriers and facilitators, and the existing gaps in the literature.

It is noted that, since GGA is a benefit granted by the government with a direct capacity for socioeconomic intervention (Li, Wu & Jiang, 2018), it becomes essential to analyze its gaps in order to substantiate the development of future research and the improvement of this public policy (Freitas & Bandeira, 2022). From this perspective, the relevance of this study lies in the expansion of scientific production on the subject, which is still scarce (Benetti et al., 2014; Colares, Camargos & Leite, 2019; Souza et al., 2018; Stark & Wilson, 2006).

The effort in elaborating this research is also justified by its empirical contribution, through the application of explicit and systematic methods of search, critical evaluation, and synthesis of the selected information (Sampaio & Mancini, 2007). This is because, to date, no studies have been found that are dedicated to conducting a systematic literature review on GGAs after the adoption of CPC 07, which could cause a "clutter" in the body of knowledge of this specific field (Öztürk, 2021).

2 GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE

In general terms, Government Grants and Assistance (GGA) can be defined as any form of government assistance that (i) enables consumers to acquire goods and services at prices lower than those offered by a perfectly competitive private sector, or (ii) raises producers' income beyond what would be obtained in the absence of such intervention (Schwartz & Clements, 1999). It is sometimes argued that the concept of a subsidy is so elusive that it cannot even be defined (Houthakker, 1972), and that its definition varies depending on the type of GGA under analysis (Schwartz & Clements, 1999).

CPC 07 (R1) (2010) refers to government assistance as the government's initiative to grant specific economic benefits to an entity or a group of entities that meet established criteria. Government grants, as defined by CPC 07 (R1) (2010), generally consist of financial contributions, though not exclusively, granted to an entity in exchange for past or future compliance with certain conditions related to its operating activities.

This broadens the concept of subsidies beyond the more restrictive definitions employed in fiscal or national accounts, allowing a wide range of government activities to be classified as subsidies (Schwartz & Clements, 1999). The same authors describe that subsidies can be classified into the following categories: (i) direct government payments to producers or consumers; (ii) government guarantees; (iii) credit subsidies or concessional loans; (iv) government equity participations; (v) government provision of goods and services at below-market prices; (vi) government purchases of goods and services at above-market prices; and (vii) regulatory subsidies that alter market prices.

Recent research demonstrates the variety in the GGA portfolio, including: cash grants (Araújo, Leite & Leite, 2019), government guarantees, interest rate bonuses for companies or subsidized loans (Gonçalves, Nascimento & Wilbert, 2016; Souza et al., 2018), tax subsidies (Formigoni, 2008; Saac & Rezende, 2019), capital grants (Macaneiro & Cherobim, 2009), and implicit payments through government regulatory actions (Batistella & Einsweiller, 2021). Furthermore, GGAs may be granted in the form of non-monetary donations, awards, research scholarships (Miranda, Valdevino & Oliveira, 2020), and social, cultural, and technological incentives, among other similar instruments (Chen, Lee & Li, 2008; Saac & Rezende, 2019).

In Brazil, the most common form of GGA is the tax exemption, which refers to the legal release from the total or partial payment of taxes (Saac & Rezende, 2019; Santos et al., 2023). Tax exemption is the mechanism by which the State releases the taxpayer, fully or partially, from a tax obligation by altering the tax base, without necessarily providing a direct counterpart (Marostica & Petri, 2017).

Although Law No. 4,320/1964 establishes guidelines for the granting of subsidies, it was only in 1976 that regulations were defined for the accounting treatment and recording, with guidance directed at investment-related grants. Over the years, other regulatory instruments were introduced on the subject, such as Normative Instruction No. 59/1986, from the Brazilian Securities and Exchange Commission (*Comissão de Valores Mobiliários* – CVM); Technical Communiqué No. 03/03/1986, from the Brazilian Institute of Independent Auditors (*Instituto dos Auditores Independentes do Brasil* – IBRACON); Law No. 11,638/2007; and CPC 07, issued following the convergence of accounting standards to international norms in 2008 (Souza et al., 2019).

GGAs are regulated by International Accounting Standard 20 (IAS 20) and by Technical Pronouncement CPC 07 (R1) (2010), which established a shift in the recognition of GGAs from equity to the income statement, provided that the established criteria are met. In general, GGAs may be recognized as income over time, either through deferred income in liabilities or by deducting the value of the subsidized asset. This treatment reflects the existence of counterparts associated with grants, linking their recognition to the fulfillment of conditions established by the granting government entity.

Additionally, it is observed that GGAs encompass a wide range of instruments, such as financial subsidies, tax incentives, government guarantees, and regulatory benefits, which broadens their relevance in the economic context (Gonçalves, Nascimento & Wilbert, 2016; Saac & Rezende, 2019; Batistella & Einsweiller, 2021). In Brazil, tax exemption stands out as one of the most recurrent forms of subsidy, characterized by the legal release, total or partial, from the payment of taxes (Marostica & Petri, 2017; Santos et al., 2023).

Despite the relevance of the regulatory framework for standardizing accounting treatment, the literature shows that GGAs have implications that transcend the technical dimension, influencing firm performance, resource allocation, and the quality of accounting information. In this regard, understanding GGAs requires an approach that integrates regulatory aspects with empirical evidence and theoretical discussions on their economic and informational effects.

As observed, the receipt of GGAs can have an impact on companies' financial statements (Souza et al., 2019). Colares, Camargos, and Leite (2019) analyzed compliance with CPC 07 by publicly traded Brazilian companies and its impacts on profitability. Benetti et al. (2014) investigated the disclosure of government grants, observing that many companies only partially complied with CPC 07. Chagas, Araujo, and Damascena (2011) studied the disclosure of grants by OSCIPs (*Organizações da Sociedade Civil de Interesse Público* – Civil Society Organizations of Public Interest), concluding that most of these entities disclosed information in accordance with CPC 07. Loureiro, Gallon, and De Luca (2011) examined the economic effects of grants on the financial statements of large publicly traded companies, finding a low level of disclosure but a positive variation in profitability.

However, according to Colares, Camargos, and Leite (2019), most studies in the field present data up to 2014, making it relevant to analyze the state of scientific production on the subject in order to bring new contributions. Regardless of their specificities, authors assert that the number of studies with qualitative approaches has been growing across various disciplines (Lee & Humphrey, 2006), which may be reflected in the percentage of co-authorships per paper, since, in general, theoretical studies tend to have fewer authors (Katz & Martin, 1997). Other studies, however, do not observe this reduction in co-authorships in research overall, in which the number of authors tends to increase (Glänzel & Schubert, 2001; Kim, 2006; Mählck & Persson, 2000; Tomizawa & Shirabe, 2002).

3 METHODOLOGY

The central focus of this research is to investigate the state of the art of scientific production on GGA in Brazil, characterizing it as a descriptive investigation. This type of study focuses primarily on describing the characteristics of individuals, events, or situations (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016). In this review, descriptive statistics based on absolute frequencies and percentages were used to map scientific production, identifying patterns, gaps, and trends that can guide the theoretical and content analysis, particularly in understanding the approaches, themes, and profiles that are more or less explored in the literature. Regarding the methodological approach, a systematic literature review was employed, which provides a comprehensive overview through the synthesis of accumulated knowledge from a specific set of studies (Jebarajakirthy et al., 2021), thereby enabling the development of well-grounded assumptions (Paul & Criado, 2020).

The research follows a qualitative approach (Öztürk, Kocaman & Kanbach, 2024). Under this perspective, this systematic review seeks to consider the significant similarities and differences among previously conducted studies, aiming to broaden the interpretive possibilities of the results and develop more comprehensive interpretations (Okoli, 2019).

The population of this review comprises the content available in the Web of Science database on GGA in the Brazilian context, totaling 76 papers. To determine the sample, previously established inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied, as illustrated in Figure 2, resulting in a sample of nine papers.

The selected time frame corresponds to the period between 2008 and 2024, with the objective of encompassing recent research on GGA already within the scope of CPC 07 regulations. It should be noted that data collection considered productions available up to April 30, 2024. The choice of the Web of Science database is justified by its relevance, the number of papers available on the analyzed subject, and the possibility of filtering research by specific countries, since this study focuses on the Brazilian context with regard to GGAs.

The review model adopted is the one proposed by Conforto, Amaral, and Silva (2011), known as RBS – Roadmap. This framework consists of three phases: input, processing, and output. These phases are organized into 15 steps, as illustrated in Figure 1.

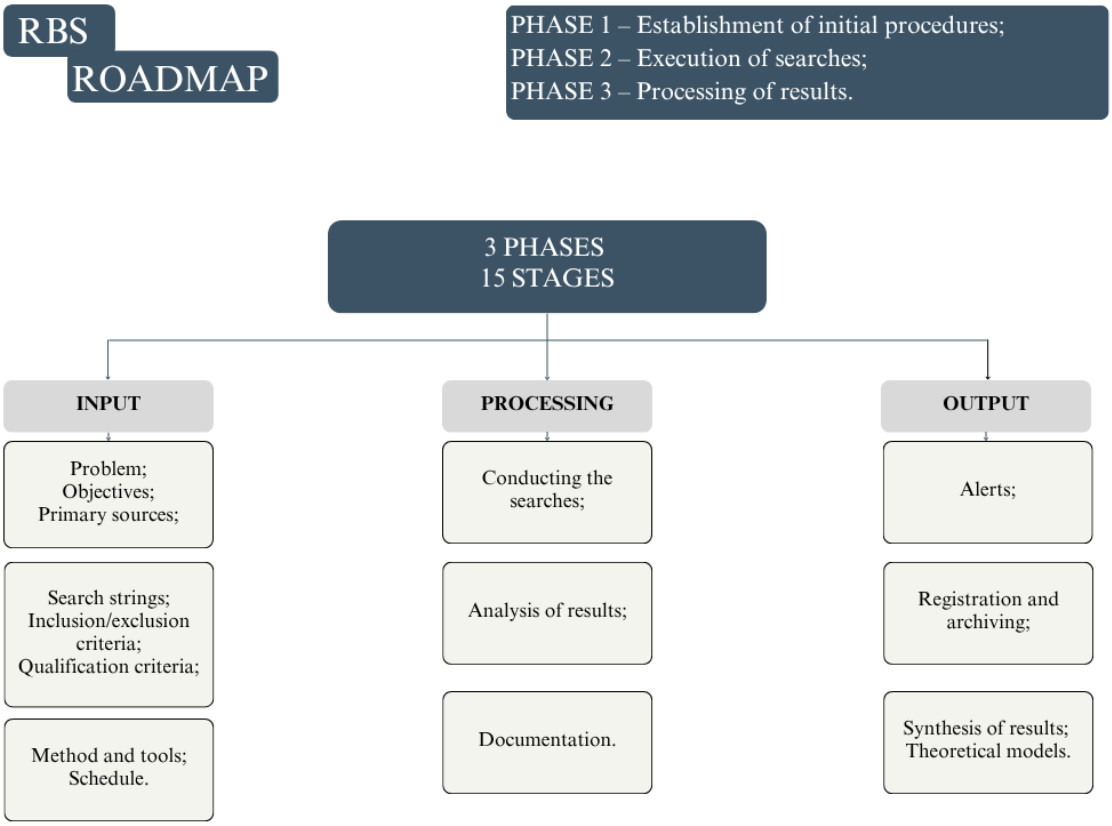

Figure 1. Phases of the RBS – Roadmap.
Source: Adapted from Conforto, Amaral, and Silva (2011).

According to the model proposed by the authors, Phase 1 consists of defining the criteria and terms that will comprise the research. Based on the problem and objectives established in the introduction, the delimitation of primary sources was initiated. To this end, a search for articles on GGA was conducted in Google Scholar and in the CAPES Journal Portal (*Portal de Periódicos da CAPES*), with the purpose of identifying related terms. Based on this, in order to analyze GGAs from different perspectives, two search strings were developed, understood as combinations of logical connectives and key terms, as presented in Table 1.

Table 1
List of search strings

Strings	Terms
a	("governm* benefits" OR "governm* grants" OR "governm* assistance" OR "governm* incentives") AND (disclosure OR "informational asymmetry" OR disclosure OR demonstration OR recognition OR "CPC 07").
b	("governm* benefits" OR "governm* grants" OR "governm* assistance" OR "governm* incentives") AND (donation OR program OR culture OR "technological innovat*" OR "tax incentives" OR "tax" OR "tribute").

Source: Authors' own elaboration.

Subsequently, inclusion criteria were defined with the objective of answering the research problem and meeting the study's objectives. Likewise, exclusion criteria were established, as illustrated in Figure 2. Regarding methods and tools, in addition to the Web of Science database, into which the search strings were entered, the StArt (State of the Art through Systematic Review) software was chosen for storing the papers included after the application of preliminary filters.

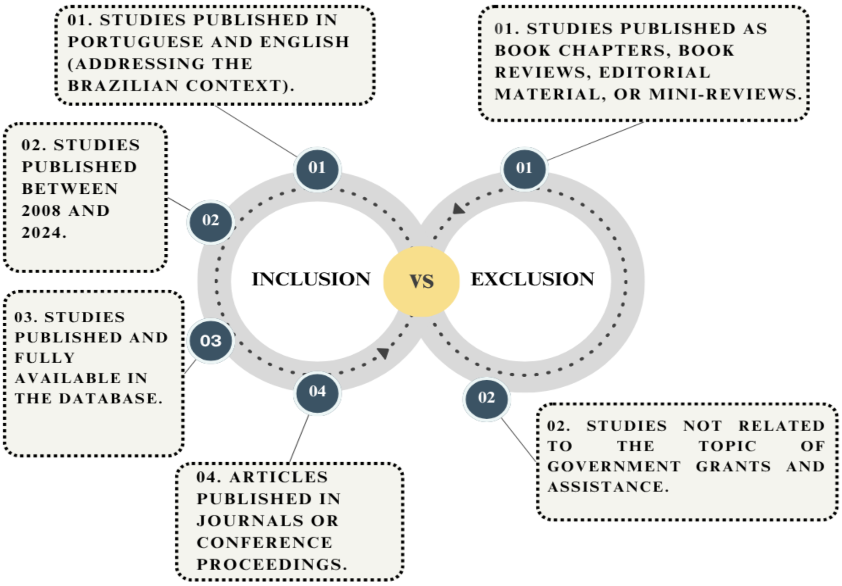

Figure 2. Inclusion and exclusion criteria for the reviewed papers.
Source: Authors' own elaboration.

In Phase 2, known as processing, data collection procedures are carried out using the terms, techniques, and tools previously defined. Initially, strings "a" and "b" were entered into the Web of Science database, returning a total of 76 papers, which represent, as previously mentioned, the research population.

With the application of the filters presented in Figure 2, the number was reduced to 71 papers, which were downloaded and stored, on April 30, 2024, in the StArt software for reading of titles, abstracts, and keywords. Figure 3 presents the summarized framework of the data filtering procedure. From a methodological standpoint, the intention is for this procedure to assist in understanding how the sample is constructed and how this step can be interpreted to support data analysis.

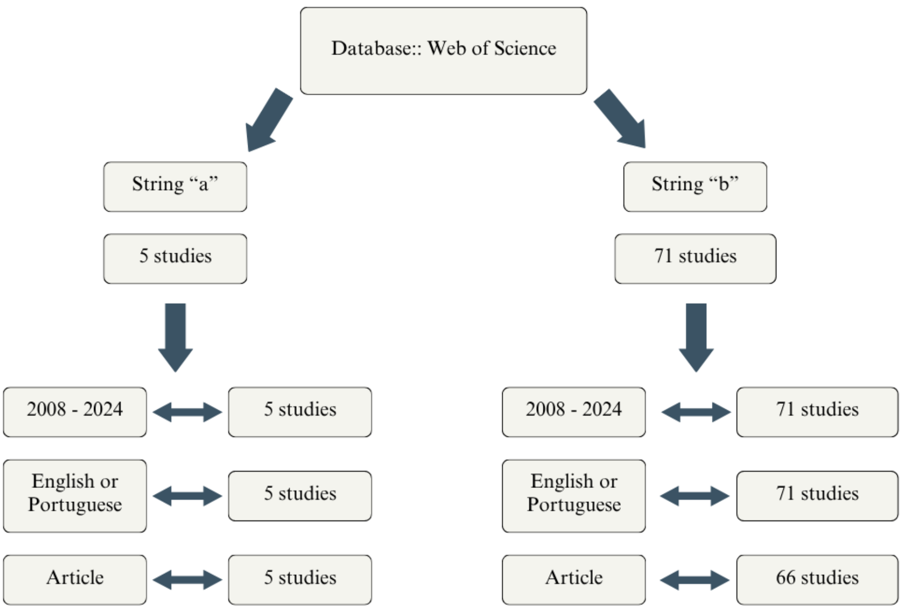

Figure 3. Data filtering procedure.
Source: Authors' own elaboration.

It is worth highlighting the significant reduction when the search is limited to “string a,” which addresses normative aspects, confirming the findings of Benetti et al. (2014), Colares, Camargos, and Leite (2019), and Souza et al. (2018), who indicate that the analysis of the effects of CPC 07 remains limited in the literature. After the application of the initial filters, the titles, abstracts, and keywords of the 71 articles stored in the StArt software were read, at which point papers that only superficially mentioned GGAs were excluded, resulting in a final sample of nine scientific articles.

For the discussion of the results obtained from the final sample, a sequence of methodological procedures was followed. First, with the objective of identifying the authorship profile of the research and analyzing the evolution of scientific production in Brazil, tables were constructed containing information on the distribution of studies over time, the number of authors involved, and their respective names. These characteristics were then analyzed and discussed.

Subsequently, in order to identify the most frequently used methodologies, syntheses of the articles were produced, describing their methodological procedures, followed by a quantitative analysis to determine the frequency of use of the different methods employed. Finally, to identify the main themes investigated in the field, the most recurrent changes resulting from the adoption of CPC 07, the most common types of grants in Brazil, as well as the barriers and facilitators, and to point out the existing gaps in the research, all articles in the sample were read and analyzed.

4 ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

This section presents and discusses the results of the systematic review, considering the analysis of the nine articles that comprise the sample, organized into two complementary analytical blocks. The first of a bibliometric nature, encompasses the temporal evolution of publications, the authors’ profile, the methodological characteristics of the studies, and the descriptive synthesis of the articles that make up the final sample. The second of a theoretical nature, examines the main themes addressed, the effects of the adoption of CPC 07, the most recurrent types of GGA, as well as the barriers and facilitators identified in the literature, in addition to the gaps that guide future research. The methodology employed allows the study to begin with the quantitative characterization of scientific production and subsequently proceed to a deeper qualitative interpretation of the analyzed content.

4.1 Bibliometric analysis of scientific production on GGA in Brazil

4.1.1 Temporal evolution of publications

Table 2 presents a summary of the distribution of publications over the analyzed period. It is observed that, over the last five years, there has been a consistent and linear occurrence of publications, in contrast to the years prior to 2019, in which significant gaps are noted, indicating a more recent concern among researchers regarding the subject.

Table 2
Distribution of articles by year of publication

Year	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
2008	1	11.1
2012	1	11.1
2019	4	44.5
2020	1	11.1
2021	1	11.1
2022	1	11.1
Total	**9**	**100**

Source: Research data.

A modest increase in interest in GGA is thus observed, particularly in 2019, which presented the highest number of papers on the subject, representing 44.5% of the investigated research. However, it is important to emphasize that the evolution of scientific production remains slow, which corroborates the findings of Benetti et al. (2014), Colares, Camargos, and Leite (2019), Souza et al. (2018), and Stark and Wilson (2006).

4.1.2 Characterization of authors

Table 3 presents the number of authors per article in the GGA field. Regarding the number of authors per article, no single-authored works were identified, with research developed in partnerships being predominant. The most common configuration consists of four or more authors (66.7%). Less frequently, articles with two authors were found, totaling 11.1%. These results corroborate studies that indicate the growth of collaborative authorship across various disciplines and fields (Glänzel & Schubert, 2001; Kim, 2006; Mählck & Persson, 2000; Tomizawa & Shirabe, 2002).

Table 3
Number of authors per article

Number of authors	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Single author	0	0.0
Two authors	1	11.1
Three authors	2	22.2
Four or more authors	6	66.7
Total	**9**	**100**

Source: Research data.

In order to characterize the research on GGA, an analysis of the authors' profile (gender and academic qualification) of the selected articles was conducted, as shown in Table 4.

Table 4
Authors' profile

Description		Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
		Absolute	**Relative (%)**
Gender	Male	24	66.7
	Female	12	33.3
	Post-doctorate	9	25.0
	Doctorate	18	50.0
Academic qualification	Doctorate (in progress)	6	16.7
	Master's degree	2	5.5
	Master's degree (in progress)	1	2.8

Source: Research data.

A predominance of male authors is observed. Regarding academic qualification, authors holding a doctoral degree are present in half of the published articles, while the master's degree level is less frequent in research on the subject. Furthermore, it was found that the scientific production of the analyzed articles is predominantly composed of authors with stricto sensu graduate degrees, with research at the undergraduate or specialization level being uncommon.

4.1.3 Methodological characterization of the studies

Table 5 presents an overview of the methodological characteristics of the articles, highlighting information on the research approach, nature, and procedures.

Table 5
Methodological cathegorization of the studies

Classification		Frequency (f)	Percentage (f %)
	Qualitative	1	11.1
Research approach	Quantitative	5	55.7
	Mixed (Quali-quantitative)	3	33.3
	Descriptive	4	44.5
Research nature	Exploratory	2	22.2
	Explanatory	3	33.3
	Documentary and bibliografic research	4	44.5
Research procedures	Documentary research	4	44.5
	Field research	1	11.0

Source: Research data.

Diante Based on the results obtained, it was found that the quantitative approach is the most frequently used by the researchers of the analyzed articles, while the qualitative approach is less common. Furthermore, a significant proportion of studies adopted a mixed (quali-quantitative) approach, representing 33.3% of the sample. This combination may be attributed to the authors' interest in exploring the phenomenon with greater depth and complexity, which requires a research design that integrates qualitative aspects (Lee & Humphrey, 2006).

Regarding the nature of the studies, 44.5% are descriptive, followed by one-third of explanatory studies. In contrast, exploratory research was less frequent, at 22.2%. With respect to methodological procedures, the use of documentary and bibliographic research stands out, at 44.5%, corroborating the subject matter itself, which predominantly deals with public expenditure data and receipts by institutions.

Furthermore, it was found that field studies, with a more theoretical approach, present the lowest number of authors, totaling only one. This result corroborates research indicating that, in general, theoretical studies tend to involve fewer collaborators (Katz & Martin, 1997).

4.1.4 Synthesis of the articles in the final sample

Table 6 presents a synthesis of the authors, the methodological procedures adopted, and the main findings identified in the nine articles that comprise the final sample of this review.

Table 6
Synthesis of the articles comprising the final sample of the systematic review

Author	Methodology	Main findings
Silva and Fischer (2008)	Field study with interviews with senior management of maritime terminal operating companies, using a structured questionnaire to evaluate six types of government incentives.	The analyzed incentives demonstrated potential to influence senior management decisions aimed at improving occupational health and safety, with the flexibility of Workplace Accident Insurance (*Seguro Acidente do Trabalho*) rates and scheduled inspections standing out as the most promising.
Cavalcanti et al. (2012)	Analytical study based on taxation scenarios, demand projections, fuel prices, and greenhouse gas emission estimates.	Part of the tax waiver could be recovered without compromising ethanol's competitiveness, indicating that the incentives exceeded environmental justification and evidencing the need for greater transparency and alignment among energy, fiscal, and environmental policies.
Brito et al. (2019)	Quantitative research based on a multigenerational diffusion model (Bass), using historical sales/fleet data and tax variables to analyze the dynamics of technology adoption in the market and the influence of taxation on this process.	Tax rates influenced the adoption of gasoline and ethanol vehicles but had no significant effect on flex-fuel vehicles. The results indicate that tax incentives are more relevant in the early stages of diffusion; however, they do not replace technologically valued attributes by consumers, such as fuel flexibility.
Melillo, Bragança e Medeiros (2019)	Mixed (quali-quantitative) study with data triangulation, based on interviews and questionnaires with managers and analysts, documentary analysis, institutional visits, and statistical evaluation of economic-financial indicators (2012–2015).	The recognition of grants under the accrual basis significantly altered equity and income indicators, reducing fluctuations, improving the economic representation of operations, and increasing the usefulness of information for managerial decisions and credit analysis.
Rocha et al. (2019)	Modeling based on evolutionary game theory and regional input-output analysis, with scenario simulation for corporate location choice.	The presence of tax incentives alone does not guarantee the optimal location decision, with regional attractiveness being determined by the combination of market potential, productive interdependence, tax incentives, and macroeconomic stability.
Souza et al. (2019)	Empirical-analytical research with a quantitative approach, analyzing publicly traded utility companies listed on B3, based on financial statements and explanatory notes, with the construction of a disclosure index in accordance with CPC 07.	Of the analyzed companies, 18 disclosed government grants, with partial and heterogeneous disclosure. An association was observed with indicators such as gross margin, gross value added, and net working capital, with no evidence of a statistically significant impact on value generation.
Chagas et al. (2020)	Descriptive study with a mixed (quali-quantitative) approach, based on documentary analysis of financial statements available at the Ministry of Justice, covering the period from 2010 to 2014.	Only 27% of the OSCIPs disclosed grants and assistance in compliance with CPC 07 (R1) and NBC TG 07 (R2), revealing low accounting compliance, insufficient disclosure, and weaknesses in the accountability process.
Drumond Júnior, Castro and Seabra (2021)	Quantitative study with economic simulations of photovoltaic systems across 35 Brazilian distributors, using Net Present Value (NPV) and payback period to evaluate different regulatory and tax scenarios.	Tax and tariff incentives proved to be decisive for economic viability, varying according to each distributor's structure; in many cases, they exceeded the cost of the system. The removal of these incentives would significantly increase the payback period and reduce the attractiveness of the projects.
Lima et al. (2022)	Methodology based on state-of-the-art review and regulatory benchmarking, with economic feasibility analysis and business model proposition, including tax and logistics assessment.	The recycling of lithium-ion batteries faces economic constraints associated with low supply, logistics costs, and transportation risks; however, government incentives, adequate regulation, tax benefits, and technological advances can broaden its economic viability.

Source: Research data.

A methodological diversity is observed, which may reflect both the complexity of the government subsidies phenomenon and its breadth across multiple fields of knowledge. In parallel, such plurality allows GGAs to be analyzed from different perspectives – organizational, economic, accounting, and regulatory. Regarding the results, convergence is observed in the sense that GGAs exert relevant influence, yet conditioned by structural and contextual factors. Some studies point to direct effects on business decisions and economic viability, while others highlight limitations, such as the absence of significant impact in certain contexts, dependence on technological attributes or market conditions, and possible distortions in resource allocation.

In summary, the findings suggest that, although incentives are relevant instruments, their effectiveness may depend on articulation with economic, institutional, and technological factors, and are not sufficient, in isolation, to guarantee consistent outcomes.

4.2 Theoretical and content analysis of studies on GGA

4.2.1 Themes addressed in GGA research

Figure 4 presents the themes studied in the Brazilian context regarding GGAs.

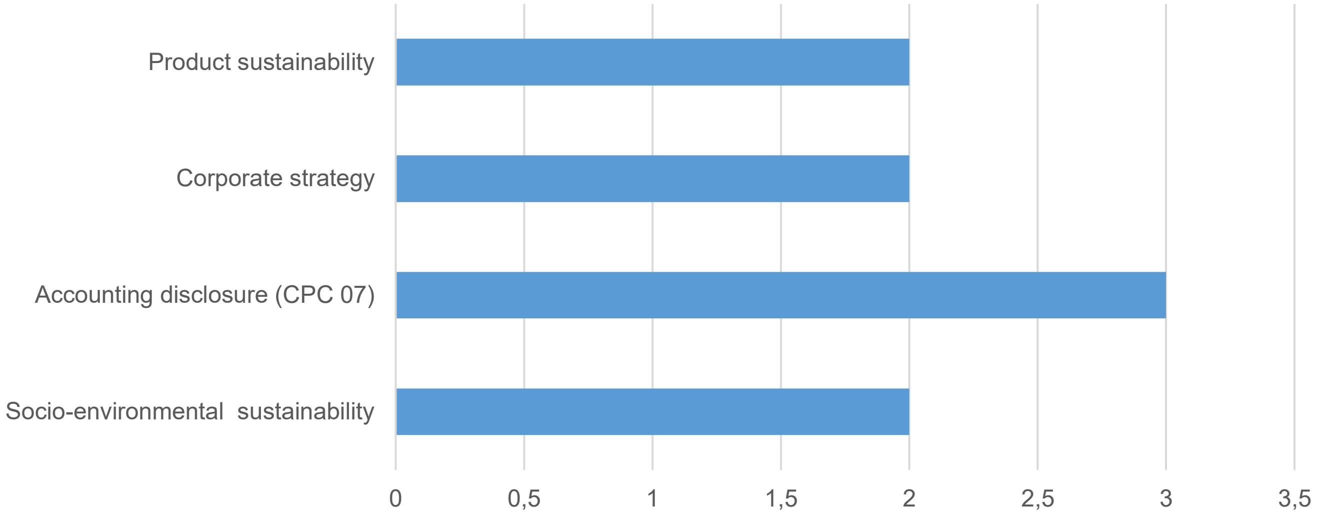

Figure 4. GGA themes studied in the Brazilian context
Source: Research data.

During the analyzed period, the relationship between GGAs and the following themes stood out: socio-environmental sustainability (Drumond Júnior, Castro & Seabra, 2021; Lima et al., 2022); accounting disclosure, based on CPC 07 (Chagas et al., 2020; Melillo, Bragança & Medeiros, 2019; Souza et al., 2019); corporate strategy (Rocha et al., 2019; Silva & Fischer, 2008); and product sustainability (Brito et al., 2019; Cavalcanti et al., 2012).

4.2.2 Reflection of accounting changes resulting from the adoption of CPC 07

Chagas et al. (2020), Melillo, Bragança, and Medeiros (2019), and Souza et al. (2019) dedicated themselves to investigating the disclosure and recognition criteria for GGAs, as well as the impact of the new recommendations of CPC 07 on companies' financial statements. This theme corresponds to approximately 33% of the collected research and evidences that normative accounting changes increase scientific production in a given area by stimulating the development of new studies aimed at understanding the relevance of regulation for business outcomes.

These studies highlight that, although there is a regulatory obligation regarding disclosure, many companies still do not comply with it satisfactorily, raising questions about the transparency and integrity of the financial information made available to stakeholders. In particular, Chagas et al. (2020) and Souza et al. (2019) identified a significant gap in the disclosure of these incentives, especially in sectors such as civil society organizations of public interest (OSCIPs) and public utility companies. This lack of transparency may generate distrust among users of financial statements regarding the appropriate use of resources received from the government, which are ultimately financed by the public sector.

The study conducted by Souza et al. (2019) highlights that greater disclosure of government grants is correlated with more positive financial indicators, such as gross margin, gross value added, and long-term indebtedness. However, a disparity is observed in the disclosure of this information in companies' financial statements, with some items being more frequently disclosed than others, such as the nature and amounts of GGAs recognized in the financial statements; reductions or exemptions from taxes in incentivized areas; and the accounting policy adopted for GGAs, including the methods of presentation.

The analysis of the explanatory notes revealed a lack of uniformity in the recording of these incentives, attributed to the permission granted by CPC 07 R1 (2010) for companies to choose between disclosing them in the balance sheet or in the income statement, which may result in consequences not yet fully explored due to the absence of standardization (Souza et al., 2019). Regarding recognition, the study by Melillo, Bragança, and Medeiros (2019) investigated the factors that determine the timing of GGA recognition by managers of philanthropic hospitals, comparing the accrual and cash bases, in addition to analyzing the usefulness of accounting information for banks in the granting of loans.

The results indicated that the recognition of GGAs under the accrual basis offers greater financial stability and control for these entities, improves economic-financial indicators, and links GGAs to hospital production. Accounting information is considered essential for managerial decision-making and for obtaining loans, being relevant to both internal and external users. The quality of this information is influenced by government regulations, loan agreements, and political factors (Melillo, Bragança & Medeiros, 2019).

4.2.3 Most common types of GGA in Brazil

Brito et al. (2019), Cavalcanti et al. (2012), Drumond Jr, Castro, and Seabra (2021), Lima et al. (2022), Rocha et al. (2019), and Silva and Fischer (2008) share a common point regarding the type of incentive addressed. All of these studies consider the effect of tax incentives, some with respect to their impact on increasing companies' socio-environmental responsibility (Drumond Júnior, Castro & Seabra, 2021; Lima et al., 2022), others regarding their influence on corporate decisions (Rocha et al., 2019; Silva & Fischer, 2008), and still others indicating that such incentives contribute to greater commercialization of products (Brito et al., 2019; Cavalcanti et al., 2012). From this perspective, this study corroborates the work of Saac and Rezende (2019) and Santos et al. (2023), indicating that tax exemption is the most recurrent GGA practice among publicly traded Brazilian companies.

4.2.4 Barriers and facilitators of GGA use in Brazil

Lima et al. (2022) investigated the economic feasibility of recycling lithium-ion batteries from electric vehicles in Brazil, addressing international regulations and identifying the companies involved. The authors developed a business model that included cost and revenue analysis, as well as a tax survey, in order to select an appropriate Brazilian state for the installation of a recycling plant.

The rationale for analyzing Brazil lies in its significant electric vehicle fleet. Despite this, as noted, the country still lacks laws that support and encourage the increased use of electric vehicles by both companies and users, a context in which GGAs could be economically relevant. In the business environment, the granting of tax incentives allows governments to promote economic and social development by stimulating business activity within their territories (Lima et al., 2022).

Although this possibility exists, industrial costs vary according to the state in which the industry is located, and this is one of the greatest challenges in granting effective GGAs, according to Lima et al. (2022). Industry in Brazil is subject to three types of taxes: municipal, state, and federal. Among these, the Tax on the Circulation of Goods and Services (*Imposto sobre Circulação de Mercadorias e Serviços* – ICMS), a state-level tax, exerts the greatest impact on the final cost of the product and should be carefully analyzed when choosing the best location for a plant (Lima et al., 2022). In this context, states such as Bahia and Minas Gerais were highlighted for their relatively low ICMS rates and strategic locations (Lima et al., 2022).

The emphasis placed on ICMS converges with the research of Drumond Jr, Castro, and Seabra (2021), which analyzes the diversity of solar energy incentive policies around the world, including feed-in tariffs, tax deductions, time-of-use pricing, and financing incentives. In the United States, for example, the decentralization of policies allows each state to create regulations and incentives based on its own resources and strategic interests. In Europe, policies are more oriented toward environmental and social characteristics than toward economic aspects.

According to these authors, tax incentives – such as exemptions from ICMS, PIS, and COFINS – have a significant impact on the economic viability of solar energy projects, particularly in regions with lower solar irradiation. The analysis of the 35 largest energy distributors in the country revealed that the presence of these incentives can determine the economic viability or non-viability of projects. In states such as Rio Grande do Sul, the absence of ICMS exemption drastically reduces the expected economic viability of projects (Drumond Júnior, Castro & Seabra, 2021).

The gradual withdrawal of tax incentives is a critical issue discussed in the study by Drumond Júnior, Castro, and Seabra (2021). The results show that, for several distributors, the elimination of incentives would still allow for a positive return on investment, especially in regions with high solar irradiation. However, the immediate withdrawal of all incentives could render many projects economically unviable, reducing sector growth and affecting job creation.

Rocha et al. (2019) discuss the location choices of companies in the Southern Common Market (Mercosur), with emphasis on Brazil, using an Evolutionary Game Theory (EGT) model. The study concludes that location decisions are influenced by market potential, local productive interdependence, tax incentives, and macroeconomic stability. The EGT model suggests that, although tax incentives are facilitators, companies also consider other factors, such as regional infrastructure and economic stability.

Silva and Fischer (2008) examine how government incentives can improve occupational health and safety (OHS) in maritime terminals, highlighting the flexibility of workplace accident insurance rates as a promising incentive. The authors suggest that, although regulations and inspections are traditionally used for this purpose, combining these mechanisms with public incentives may be more effective. Such incentives motivate companies to invest in OHS, reducing operational costs and promoting fair competition. The latter two studies indicate that government incentives can influence corporate behavior; however, their effectiveness depends on the context and the specific characteristics of each sector.

In the Brazilian context, the article by Cavalcanti et al. (2012) highlights the country's pioneering role in promoting ethanol as a vehicular fuel, primarily through the National Alcohol Program (*Programa Nacional do Álcool* – Proálcool). Although Brazil is one of the world's largest producers and consumers of ethanol, this biofuel still benefits from tax advantages compared to other fuels, such as lower tax rates. Thus, the granting of these benefits results in revenue losses that could otherwise be directed toward infrastructure and social programs.

The study proposes a review of the tax incentives granted to ethanol, with the objective of mitigating revenue losses without compromising the competitiveness of this biofuel relative to diesel. To this end, it suggests the analysis of different taxation scenarios in order to assess their impacts on public revenue and ethanol's competitiveness. Furthermore, the authors emphasize the importance of transparency in energy and fiscal policies to ensure the consistency and effectiveness of the measures adopted. The results indicate that tax incentives for ethanol should be maintained, but revised, so as to avoid growing losses in state revenues (Cavalcanti et al., 2012).

Brito et al. (2019) demonstrate the significant influence of government incentives on the adoption of alternative vehicular technologies in Brazil. By adapting a multigenerational innovation diffusion model, the study shows that tax reductions have a positive impact on the diffusion of flex-fuel vehicles, while producing a negative effect on the adoption of gasoline and ethanol vehicles. This finding suggests that public policies, such as tax reductions, play a crucial role in the transition toward more sustainable automotive Technologies, a positive relationship that favors the use and effectiveness of GGAs.

In general, the existence of technical standards, such as CPC 07, enables the use of GGAs in Brazil, since, when observed, such standards confer greater transparency to the use of benefits (Chagas et al., 2020), encouraging public managers to increase resource transfers, as they gain greater clarity over the control and application of public funds. On the other hand, it is observed that the variability and complexity of the tax burden in Brazil constitute the main barriers to the efficient use of GGAs.

4.2.5 Research agenda for future studies on GGA

In summary, the authors who addressed the lack of disclosure and reporting of GGAs in accordance with the recommendations of CPC 07 did not delve into the main causes of this phenomenon. Furthermore, no other studies were identified that investigate the same entities across different regions of the country for comparative purposes, as research tends to concentrate on specific sectors or cases. As a result, it is not possible to establish determining factors for the efficiency of GGA disclosure under CPC 07, constituting a gap in the literature.

Although these studies have contributed to the understanding of the importance of GGAs for business outcomes, there remains a need to broaden the scope of such research beyond companies, to include other institutions and sectors that also receive government subsidies. A predominance of research on tax and fiscal incentives in companies is also observed, with gaps regarding other types of GGA, including cultural and technological incentives.

Particularly in international articles, an interest in the impact of incentive granting on companies engaged in socio-environmental activities is noted, indicating potential for future investigations in this area. Finally, it is worth emphasizing that the studies did not address GGAs in any significant manner from an accounting perspective, leaving a wide range of aspects to be explored by researchers.

5 CONCLUSIONS

This article sought to investigate, through a systematic literature review, the state of the art of scientific production on GGA in the Brazilian context, following the adoption of CPC 07, covering the period from 2008 to 2024.

Based on the results obtained, a significant predominance of co-authored works was observed, whose authors are predominantly male and hold stricto sensu graduate degrees. From a methodological standpoint, quantitative and descriptive studies employing documentary and bibliographic procedures were the most frequent. Regarding themes, these were concentrated in socio-environmental sustainability, accounting disclosure, corporate strategy, and product sustainability. Thus, the breadth of the subject and its potential to be approached from different perspectives become apparent.

Among the changes observed in companies following the adoption of CPC 07, it was noted that the disclosure of subsidies, although now mandatory, is still not carried out in a satisfactory and comprehensive manner, raising concerns about the appropriate use of government resources. The studies reveal an association between greater disclosure of grants and more positive financial indicators, despite the disparities in disclosure that have not yet been fully explored in the literature. Melillo, Bragança, and Medeiros (2019) further emphasize that recognition under the accrual basis offers greater financial stability and improves economic-financial indicators, being essential for managerial decision-making and for obtaining loans.

Based on the analysis of the studies, the predominance of tax incentives among the types of GGA in Brazil stands out, as this is the most analyzed type in the articles, evidencing a research gap for future studies due to the existence of other benefits that have not yet been investigated. It is inferred that the existence of technical standards, such as CPC 07, facilitates the use of GGAs in Brazil, and that transparency encourages public managers to increase resource transfers, given the greater control and appropriate application of public funds. Nevertheless, the variability and complexity of the Brazilian tax system were identified as the main barriers to the efficient use of GGAs.

For future research agendas, a more comprehensive investigation of the reasons why companies do not comply with CPC 07 standards is recommended, as well as comparisons between entities from different regions, in order to identify the determining variables of efficiency in GGA disclosure. It is also suggested that the research focus be broadened to include not only companies, but also other institutions and sectors that benefit from GGAs, in addition to expanding the analyses to cover other types of government subsidies, especially those of a cultural and technological nature, which remain underexplored.

It should be noted that this study presents limitations inherent to its methodological scope, particularly with regard to the time frame adopted and the database selected for the collection of publications. In this sense, the results exclusively reflect the set of studies available within that interval and in that specific database, and may not encompass the entirety of scientific production on the subject.

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FACULTY OF ECONOMICS, ADMINISTRATION, ACTUARIES AND ACCOUNTING
University Av. – 2486, Benfica
60020-180, Fortaleza-CE
BOARD: Carlos Adriano Santos Gomes Gordiano
José Carlos Lázaro da Silva Filho

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