

EMPOWERING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS WITH **RESEARCH SKILLS** THROUGH THE BASIC SPSS WORKSHOP 2026

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Figure 1. Dr. Zafirah delivering the introductory SPSS session on Day 1

Mastering the Basics

The workshop was specially designed for beginners, providing participants with practical exposure to one of the most commonly used statistical software packages in research – SPSS (Statistical Product and Service Solutions). Instead of focusing on complex statistical concepts, the sessions emphasised hands-on learning, allowing participants to follow step-by-step demonstrations while working on their own computers.

Right statistical skills

As final-year students begin analysing data for their research projects, having the right statistical skills is essential. To support this important stage of their academic journey, the team from the Department of Pharmacology and Life Sciences, led by Madam Noor Jannah Yob, successfully organised the Basic SPSS Workshop 2026 on 22 and 29 April 2026. The two-day workshop was attended by 31 Bachelor of Pharmacy students, particularly third-year students who are currently conducting their research project.

Interactive Learning

During the first session, participants learned how to create and organise datasets, define variables, and prepare research data for analysis. These foundational skills highlighted the importance of proper data management before any statistical analysis could be performed. On the second day, participants progressed to conducting basic statistical analyses and interpreting the outputs generated by SPSS. Through practical examples and guided exercises, they gained a better understanding of how statistical findings can be used to answer research questions and support evidence-based conclusions.

As the workshop was designed to support students with their research projects, participants were encouraged to work with their own research datasets throughout the sessions. This provided them with the opportunity to receive personalised guidance and recommendations from the facilitators on selecting appropriate statistical tests and interpreting their results. The workshop was further strengthened by the support of Dr. Nadia Jalaludin, Dr. Zafirah Liyana Abdullah, Dr. Siti Nooraishah Hussain, Dr. Azwandi Ahmad, and Dr. Ruzianisra Mohamed, who assisted participants throughout the hands-on sessions.

One of the highlights of the workshop was the interactive learning environment, where participants were encouraged to ask questions, discuss challenges encountered in their own research, and seek clarification throughout the sessions. The hands-on approach not only made the learning process more engaging but also helped participants build confidence in using SPSS independently.

Skills That Empower

Overall, the Basic SPSS Workshop 2026 received encouraging feedback from participants, who valued the practical nature of the programme and the opportunity to strengthen their statistical analysis skills. It is hoped that the knowledge gained from the workshop will support students in their final-year projects and postgraduate research while fostering greater confidence in conducting research independently.



Figure 2. Madam Noor Jannah conducting the hands-on training session on Day 2. A total of 31 undergraduate students participated in the two-day program.