Table 2. *Identified themes and subthemes*

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| 1. Understanding Self  Feeling different  Seeking congruency  2. Social Pressure to Conform  Pressured to change by loved ones  Judged by strangers: Discrimination, harassment, and threats of violence  Facing employment barriers  Being assumed to be a lesbian  3. Managing Stigma  Internalizing  Conforming  Passing  Considering transitioning  Resisting  Self-acceptance | 4. Developing Self-Acceptance  Reflective process  Important people  Community  Critical analysis of gender  Body acceptance  5. Living Outside Gender Expectations  Playing with gender  Strength of character  Integrity to self  Enjoying self as different |