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| **Main themes**  | **Codes/themes**  |
| **Barriers**  |  |
| Management of ART and illnesses  | Frequent illnesses Drug side effects HIV has no cure Keeping medication in dormitory Daily medication Value of treatment Keeping medicine at school School food  |
| Fear, Negative thoughts, and self-devaluation in YLWHA | Worries / SadnessThinking about deathIsolation Suicidal tendencies Fear of (disclosure, death, infecting others)Self-image of worthlessness /self-hate Association of status with death Loneliness Sad memories of parental loss Questions of why they are the ones with HIV  |
| Lack of meaningful and supportive relationships | Lack of parental care Parental / caretaker neglect Loss of friendships Non-confidentiality of school staff |
| Reactionary attitudes and behavior from others at school | Discrimination Abuse / Insults Mistreatment Rumors/gossiping in the schoolBullying at school Isolation Ignorance Judging YLWHA HIV as a curse Considered weak/unfit YLWHA distrusted by others Laughing at YLWHA Fear of infection Unintended disclosure by others Constant reminders about their status  |
| Financial challenges | Transport fares to clinicSchool fees Clothes Feeding Paid job |
| **Facilitators**  |  |
| Practical support at school, home and community | School nurse Transport to ART clinicSchool leave permitsAssistance to pick drugs from ART clinicPartial disclosure Sensitization of othersPeer support  |
| Counselling, encouragement and spirituality | Information about medicationTestimonies of others living with HIV Counselling Trust in God (spirituality) Acceptance of statusEncouragement and advice to (adhere to treatment, cope with emotional difficulties)Learn how to live with HIV in a certain setting e.g. boarding school  |
| Individual coping strategies | Installing a daily routine Attending a day schoolHiding medicine in suitcaseHiding when taking medicineTreatment planning Use of alarm clock as reminderSecrecy/preventing suspicions Distractive activities Interacting with fellow YLWHA Changing school Non-disclosure of YLWHA |
| Hopes, dreams and opportunities for the future | Hopes and aspirations Developing skillsPositive contribution to the community and societyHopes and dreams Chances of getting a job Opportunities for development Living independently Academic achievements  |
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***Table 2: Themes and main themes derived from thematic analysis***