

1 **A women's perspective**

2 **Table 3 Example of categorization**

3 Theme: Life-controlling condition

| <i>Quote</i>                                                                                                                                                                  | <i>Code</i>                                                                                    | <i>Description</i>                                                     | <i>Category</i>                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 'If you feel... really going to doubt yourself, if it is indeed the case. If you are not taken seriously, not by your family and friends, not by doctors, that is quite sad.' | Diminishing self-confidence, feeling unappreciated                                             | Reduction of self-esteem and self-confidence, loss of interest in work | Restriction, challenges of life                              |
| 'I'm an experienced person, but suddenly I started to ask questions.'                                                                                                         | Loss of concentration, overview and efficiency; making mistakes, calling in sick or losing job | Consequences for professional practice                                 | Restraints to participation / satisfaction as a professional |
| 'And so...also got the tendency to step out of life.'                                                                                                                         | Preoccupation with PMS, recurrent thoughts of not valuing life                                 | Desperate mental state of mind                                         | Meaning of life                                              |