

Table 2. Themes and their subthemes

Themes	Subthemes
Perceived roles of birth companions	1. Physical support 2. Emotional assistance
Experiences of birth companions with health care providers	1. Positive experiences with health care providers. 2. Negative experiences with health care providers.
Expectations of birth companions	1. The desire to receive continual support and respect from health care workers. 2. The desire for pregnant women to respect cultural beliefs.