

Filmmaker Rakeysh Om Prakash at SRCC 2016

“... *we had great teachers* ...”



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Director Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra at SRCC Youth Conference 2016.

Loud cheers and the clicks of countless cellphones of students welcomed filmmaker **Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra**, as he made his way to the stage at Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC). An alumnus of the college, Mehra was a guest at the **SRCC Youth Conference 2016**.

Much like the students in *Rang De Basanti*, the National Film Award-winning filmmaker wanted to change the world back in his SRCC days. “I had **joined college in 1980**, just after the emergency of 1977. We had gone through the darkest ages of democracy. So the only thing that we wanted to do was change the world,” he said.

In fact, he was also a revolutionary of sorts, just like actor Aamir Khan and his gang in the film. He said, “Humara itna bada ground tha aur poora khaali rehta tha. We would wonder kya ho raha hai, koi khelta kyu nahi. So we got all the students together in this very hall and pledged that we would win the **Vice Chancellor’s Trophy**. We started a new movement in college - that of getting meritorious sportspersons admission in to college. We fought with our faculty, and got about 10 sports admissions next year. **Three years later, we won the Trophy.**” said Rakeysh.

“Our professors would rarely see us in college and when we would enter, they would ask us ‘tum log ho kaun bhai (who are you guys?)

... but we had great teachers so we didn’t have to go back home and study”, he shared.

Nikita Saxena, Hindustan Times, New Delhi updated: Sep 22, 2016 07:26 IST *adapted*